

**MINUTES OF THE  
NINETEENTH REGULAR SYNOD ASSEMBLY OF THE  
METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

**May 14-15, 2010  
Westchester Marriott Hotel, Tarrytown, New York**

***FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2010***

***PLENARY SESSION I***

At 10:02 A.M. EDT Bishop Robert Alan Rimbo led the voting members Metropolitan New York Synod in the order for the Opening of an Assembly to begin the Nineteenth Regular Assembly of the Metropolitan New York Synod at the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown, New York.

Immediately following the order, the first plenary session was called to order. Bishop Rimbo welcomed the voting members and spoke about the work of the assembly. He told the members that five other synods of the ELCA will be meeting also over our time together. He defined for the assembly the intention of the term “voting member” as it applies to the members of the assembly.

Pr. Paul Milholland, chair of the Assembly Planning Committee, thanked his committee and acknowledged its members and the synod staff who report its work.

Bishop Rimbo introduced Pr. Percy Butiku as the assembly chaplain. She serves as interim pastor at New Hope in Valley Stream and as an assistant to the bishop.

The Rev. Diana Austin was introduced as the parliamentarian for the assembly. She is an ordained Presbyterian pastor.

**Report of the Committee on Registration**

The Rev. Rosaline Brathwaite gave the registration report.

Clergy	123
Lay Voting Members	182
AiM	9
<b>Total Voting members</b>	<b><u>314</u></b>
Visitors	<u>6</u>
<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>320</b>

**Consideration of Agenda**

The prepared agenda was put before the assembly for adoption. The chair asked if there were any additions or changes. No changes were proposed and the adoption of the agenda was put to a vote.

**On the Adoption of the Agenda**

**Adopted**

**19<sup>TH</sup> MNYS SYNOD ASSEMBLY**  
**Friday, May 14, 2010**

**PRE ASSEMBLY**

8:00 AM Registration  
9:30 AM Orientation for Voting Members  
10:00 AM Opening Worship and Opening of an Assembly

**PLENARY SESSION I**

10:30 AM Call to order/Welcome the Voting Members  
Welcome and Introduction of Assembly Chaplain Pr. Perucy Butiku  
Registration and Attendance Report  
Introduction of the Parliamentarian Pr. Diana Austin  
Adoption of the Agenda  
Rules and Procedures  
Report of the Elections Committee and Additional Nominations  
Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel  
Introduction of the ELCA Representative  
Introduction of Synod Officers and Synod Council  
Synod Council Report  
Report of the Treasurer  
Presentation of 2010 Revised Budget  
Presentation of 2011 Budget (Discussion and Adoption on Saturday)  
2014 Bishop's Election Process Update  
Registration and Attendance Report  
Announcements  
Prayer  
12:20 PM Lunch in various locations (Terrace, Tarrytown and Westchester Ballrooms)

**PLENARY SESSION II**

1:15 PM Call to Order  
Prayer  
Bishop's Report Part I  
Introduction of Synod Staff  
Financial Presentation  
Board of Pensions Report  
ELCA Representative's Report I  
Break/Hymn  
Candidacy Committee Report  
Project Connect  
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia  
Reference and Counsel  
Elections Committee/Ballot(s) I  
United Methodist Church/NY Conference Greetings  
Reformed Church in America Greetings  
Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod/Atlantic District Greetings  
Episcopal Church Greetings  
Announcements  
Prayer  
5:40 PM Dinner in various locations  
7:00 PM Festival Eucharist  
9:00 PM Multicultural Festival

**Saturday, May 15, 2010**

**PLENARY SESSION III**

7:30 AM Breakfast in various locations  
Budget Breakfast

8:00 AM Morning Prayer  
 8:20 AM Call to Order  
 Registration and Attendance  
 Elections Committee Results of Ballot I/ Voting Ballot II  
 Transformational Ministry - Lutheran Parish of Northern Dutchess  
 Report of the Bishop II  
 Communication and Interpretation  
 Mission Interpretation and Partnership Grants  
 LYO  
 Reference and Counsel  
*Diakonia* Lay Education Program  
 ELCA Report II  
 Tanzania Committee, Hunger Committee, Romania Committee  
 Adoption of the Revised 2010 Budget and 2011 Budget  
 Announcements  
 Prayer  
 12:05 PM Lunch

**PLENARY SESSION IV**

1:00 PM Eucharist  
 1:55 PM Call to Order  
 Elections Committee Results Ballot II/Vote Ballot III (if necessary)  
 LMHE  
 Anniversaries/Introduction of pastors new to MNYS  
 Reference and Counsel  
 Sending Service, Installation of Synod Council, Closing of an Assembly

Bishop Rimbo referred members to the rules of the assembly, and asked if there were additions or changes. The Rules of the Assembly are Continuing Resolutions and only changes or amendments require action.

Pr. Richard Hill [Hope, Selden] moved to add a new rule 7 to S7.32.01 SA2004C

7. All resolutions intended as memorials to a churchwide assembly that will meet in a different year will be postponed to the synod assembly held in the same year as the churchwide assembly.

Pr. William Baum spoke against the rule. Dcn. Paul Lumpkin said that he believed that the additional lead time provided by adopting resolutions in the off year was helpful for the people who prepare for the churchwide assembly.

Bishop asked the ELCA representative Bishop Malpica Padilla to comment. He affirmed that the church-wide staff often prepares substantial background materials related to memorials submitted; early submission can enhance this.

Secretary Krauser was asked to comment. He noted that the memorials may be submitted in the year of a churchwide assembly, but that sometimes when adopted more than a year in advance may have to be revised due to altered circumstances.

No additional speakers rose to address the amendment. The assembly was asked to vote on the proposed rule.

Ms. Emma Porter raised a question about quorum. Pr. Brathwaite reported that a total of 417 voting members had pre-registered for the assembly thus an attendance of 314 voting members present indicated a that quorum was established.

**Nominations Committee Report**

Ms. Christine Connell, Nominations Committee chair, reported the nominations for officers.

**Vice President** [Lay]

Hans Vogel  
Maria Del Toro  
F. Eugene Hiigel

**Secretary** [Lay or Clergy]

James Krauser  
Edward Barnett  
Robert Schoepflin

No additional nominations we made. Nominations for the officers were declared closed. Ms. Connell reported the nominations for the Consultation Committee.

**Consultation Committee**

Lay Female [2]	Marion Steadman	Lay Male [2]	Earl Marsan Brian Reardon
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No additional nominations we made. Nominations for the Consultation committee were declared closed.

Nomination for the Discipline Committee were reported next.

**Discipline Committee**

Clergy Female	Diane Wildow	Clergy Male	James Krauser
Lay Female	Christine Connell	Lay Male	Paul Lumpkin

No additional nominations we made. Nominations for the Discipline Committee were declared closed.

As the names of candidates for Synod Council were presented, several floor nominations were made.

**Synod Council Cycle A** [unexpired term ending 2012]

SC Clergy	Diane Wildow Annemarie Noto Brenda Jack	Floor nomination
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**Synod Council Cycle B** [terms ending 2014]

SC Clergy	SW Brooklyn	Khader El-Yateem Craig Miller	
	At Large	Paul Milholland Darryl Kozak	Floor Nomination
	Delaware-Hudson	Marylou Baumgartner Kit Robison	
	Eastern Nassau	Ron Klose Perry Kirschbaum	
SC Lay Female	Southwest Nassau	Christine Connell Cyriline Mathurin Renee Wicklund	
	Western Suffolk	Kennetha Pettus Theresa Auletta Barbara Hansen	Floor Nomination

	Bronx	Hope Card	
		Minerva Melendez	
SC Lay Male	SE Queens	Charles Germain	
	NE Queens	John Malone	Floor Nomination
	Brooklyn Bridges	F. Eugene Hiigel	
SC Multicultural Male	At Large	No Nominations	
SC Youth [2 yr.]		Kelsey Brown	
	Lumpkin	Alyssa Trombitas	Floor Nomination
		Ryan Schank	Floor Nomination

When there were no further nominations for Synod Council, nominations were declared closed.

Nominees for Voting Members to the ELCA Churchwide assembly were presented next. Additional nominations were made in each of the sub-categories.

**Churchwide Assembly Voting Member August 14-20, 2011 – Orlando, Florida**

Bishop, VP and 14 additional Voting Members

Clergy [To elect: 5]

*Multicultural* [1]

Romeo Dabee  
 Khader El-Yateem  
 Percy Butiku Floor Nomination  
 Mary Chang Floor Nomination  
 Jerome Taylor Floor Nomination

*Female* [2]

Katrina Foster  
 Phyllis Haynes  
 Ann Tiemeyer  
 Diane Wildow  
 Brenda Jack Floor Nomination

*Male* [2]

William Baum  
 Paul Milholland  
 Jonathan Linman  
 Daniel Ward  
 Craig Miller Floor Nomination  
 William Clark, Jr Floor Nomination  
 Robert Schoepflin Floor Nomination

Lay Female [To elect: 4]

Christine Connell  
 Meg Fielding  
 Jacquelyn Mize-Baker  
 Janet Siry Floor Nomination  
 Lynn Hansen Floor Nomination  
 Kathleen Schmidt Floor Nomination  
 Kimberly Fey Floor Nomination  
 Ophelia Coleman Floor Nomination  
 Patrica Force Floor Nomination  
 Minerva Melendez Floor Nomination  
 Ingrid Compton Floor Nomination

Lay Male [To elect: 4]

Homer Alexander  
 Dave Ehlers  
 Paul Lumpkin  
 Earl Marsan  
 Robert Rainis  
 Brian Reardon

Young Adult (under 30) [To elect: 1]

Marc Almendarez Stutzel Floor Nomination  
 Nicolette Faison  
 Jonathan Westerlund Floor Nomination  
 Geronimo Desumala Floor Nomination

After all nominations had been received, nominations for Churchwide Assembly Voting Members were declared closed. Floor nominators were reminded of the deadline for submission of biographical data.

### **Reference and Counsel Report**

Ms. Reneé Wicklund and Pr. Scott Kershner, co-chairs of the Committee on Reference and Counsel, directed the members to the items in their report and introduced the resolutions received by the Committee on Reference and Counsel.

Consideration of the resolutions was scheduled to begin in the second plenary session.

- Item A A Resolution on Energy Stewardship
- Item B.1 A Resolution Regarding Board of Pensions and ELCA Participating Annuity and Bridge Fund
- Item B.2 A Resolution Regarding Decrease in Retired Church Workers' Annuity Payments by the Board of Pensions
- Item B.3 A Memorial to the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Regarding 2010-2012 Board of Pensions Reductions of Benefits for Retired Rostered Leaders
- Item C A Resolution for a Year of Forgiveness and Healing
- Item D A Resolution Supporting People with Autism
- Item E A Memorial to Encourage Full Implementation of Actions on Ministry Policies
- Item F A Memorial to Encourage Full Implementation of the Social Statement "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust"

Bishop Rafael Malpica Padilla, Executive Director for Global Mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, was introduced and welcomed as the ELCA Representative to the 2010 Synod Assembly.

Bishop Rimbo introduced the officers of the synod and the members of the Synod Council and asked those present to stand and be recognized by the assembly.

Vice President Hans Vogel spoke briefly about the work of the Synod Council in the preceding year. A detailed report of the Synod Council's actions was included in Section B of the Bulletin of Reports. Following Mr. Vogel's remarks the assembly took a brief recess.

### **Treasurer's Report**

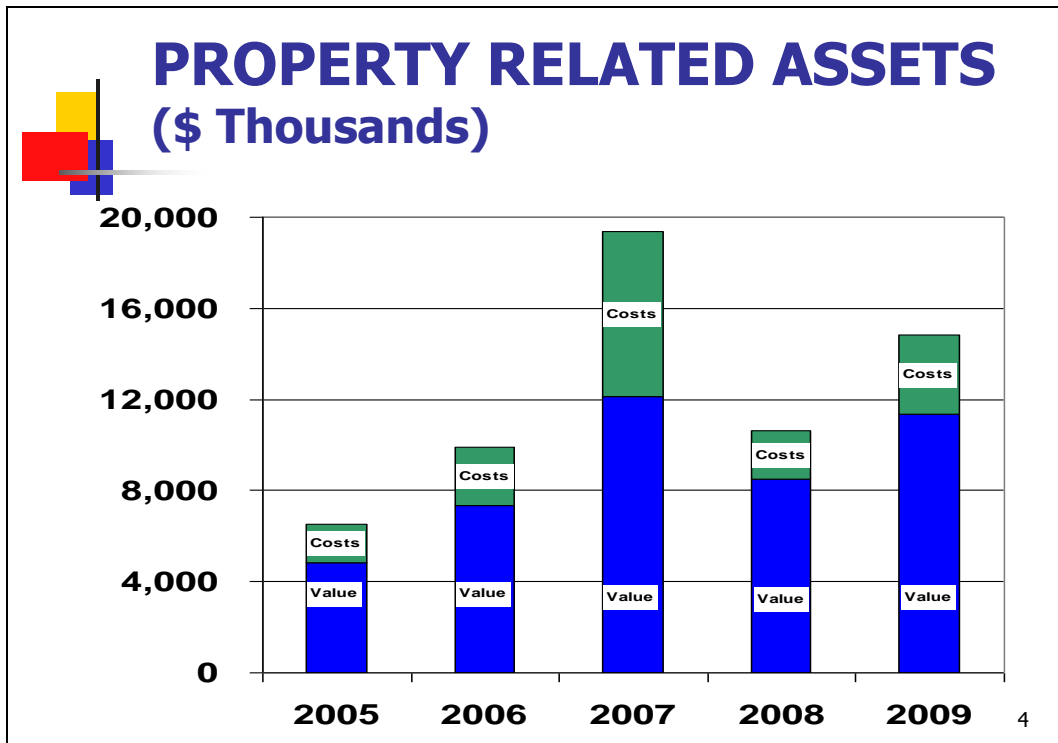
Following the recess, Synod Treasurer, Mr. Robert H. Buescher, gave this report.

I plan to cover these three topics today: the auditor's report, the health of the Synod, and the 2010 and 2011 budget proposals

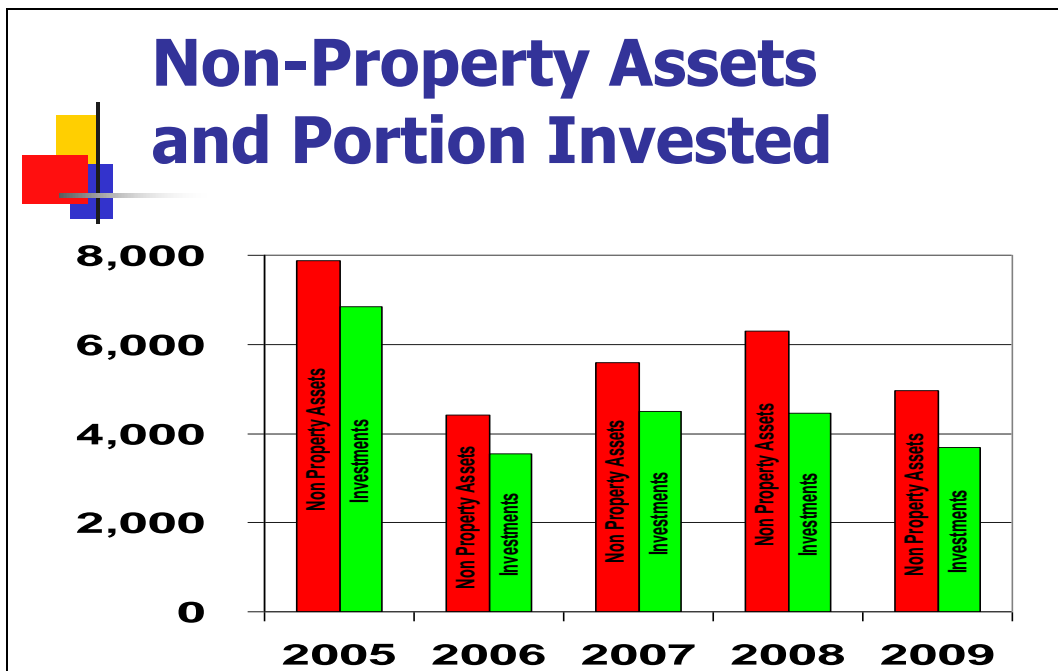
#### ***Topic 1: 2009 Results and the Report of the Independent Auditor***

*The major foci of an audit are to 1) Confirm the existence and value of the assets on our books, and 2) Confirm the reported Revenue and Expenses.*

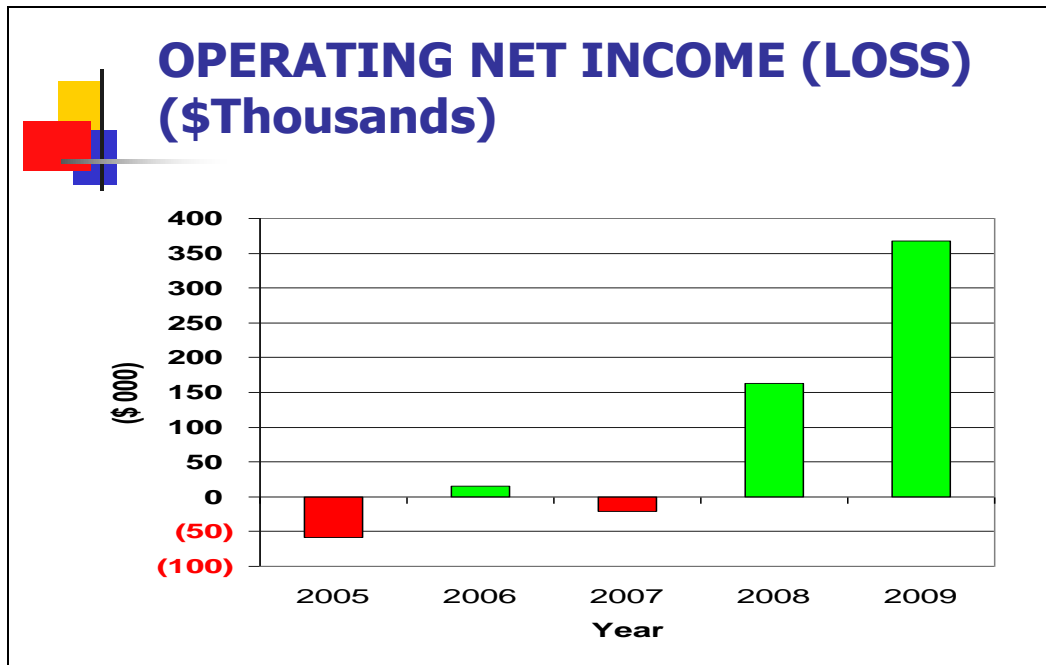
First, we go to our results for 2009. The Independent Auditor has again given us a completely clean opinion. Primarily the auditor confirms that what we own, the assets, exist and are accurately presented; and that the transactions, the revenue and expense, is correctly recorded. For ease of discourse, I have separated the assets related to our property holdings, and non property holdings.



The significant character of the property-related assets is that a portion of the assessed value has been expended in support for repair or maintenance, which results in a lower net value. The size of the top portion of the bars is watched by the staff and the Synod Council on a monthly basis.



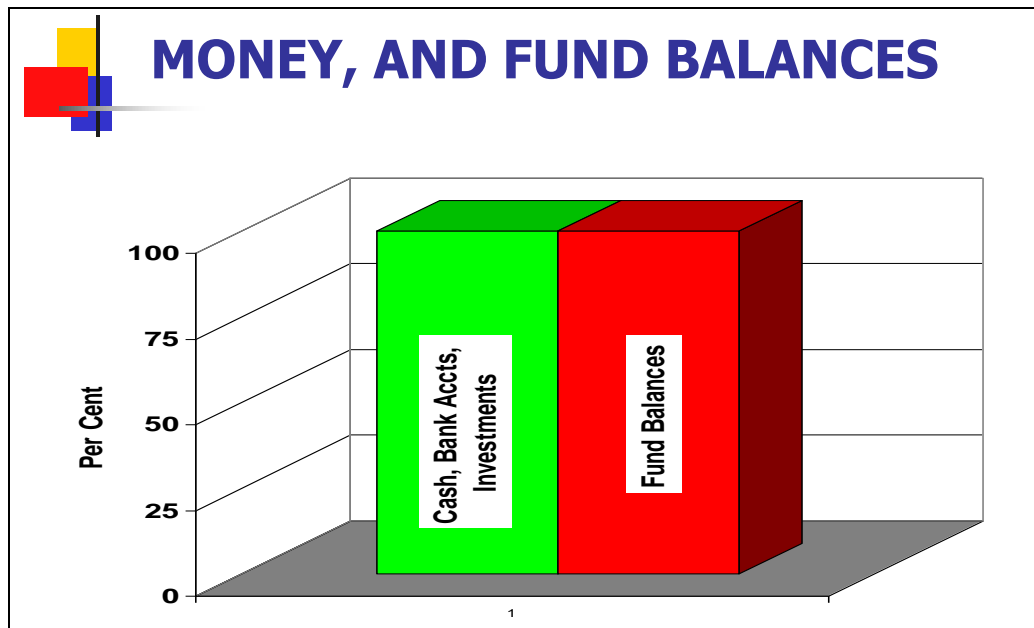
The Non-Property assets show that not all of such assets are out working and making investment income for us. Some of those are held in our bank account, which draws little income. The objective is always to make as much of our non-property assets be working for us.



The auditor also confirmed that we properly recorded revenue and expenses, which show our highest net income in 5 years. One of the reasons is that we received some sizeable bequests, which were not designated, and hence constitute revenue, as well as transactions related to more frugal spending because of our cash shortage, which I will discuss later.

**Topic 2: The Financial Health of the Synod**

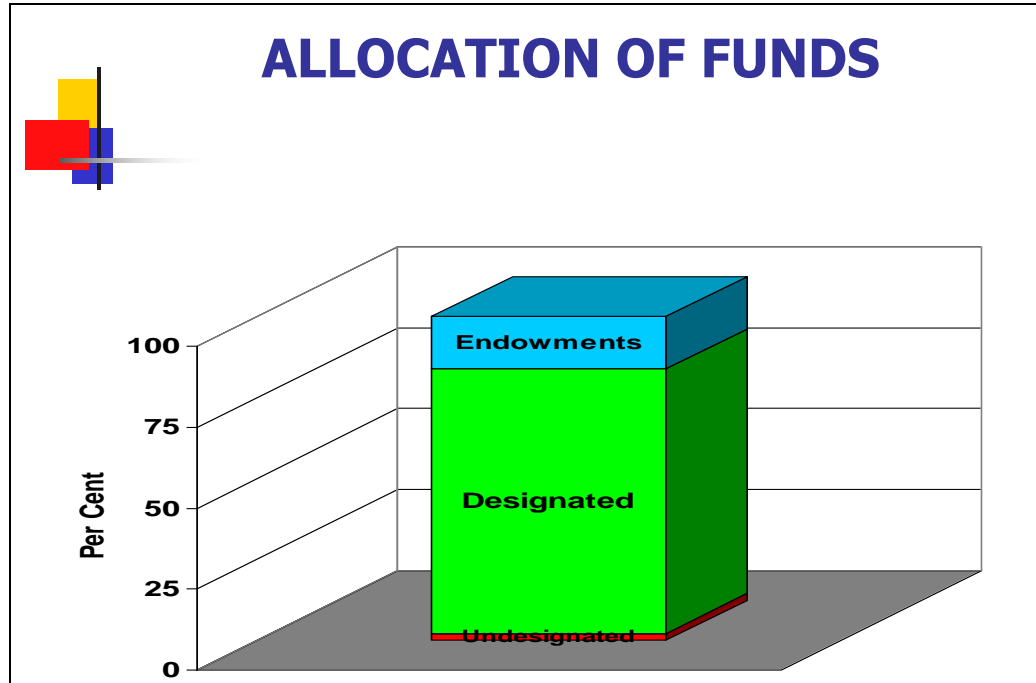
So we move to the second topic of the day, our financial health. But first, a short accounting course in plain English and non-accountant language.



The financial accounting is a bit different from that of a commercial corporation. To begin, we use fund accounting, where, all cash or other income we receive are also assigned to funds. Some are non-designated funds, and others must be spent for specific purposes, and others go to endowment funds, which are permanently held and only the investment income may be spent.



Both sides of this chart must be equal. Each time money is received it goes into our cash assets, [left bar] and also is assigned for use in various Undesignated or Designated Fund pockets (right bar).



This chart is typical at the start of a year. Although we may still have a balance of cash and investments, we have previously spent most of the undesignated funds, which hardly show on this chart. Look closely at the thin red line at the bottom of the box.

So, when we plan our operating budget, the money we intend to spend must come mostly from new contributions of cash or from cash previously received and in undesignated or designated funds that “fit” their intended use.

So, the Funds are not piles of money, they only dictate where money is authorized to be applied. Therefore, in preparing a ten-year plan or an annual budget, there are constraints and also have to follow two axioms:

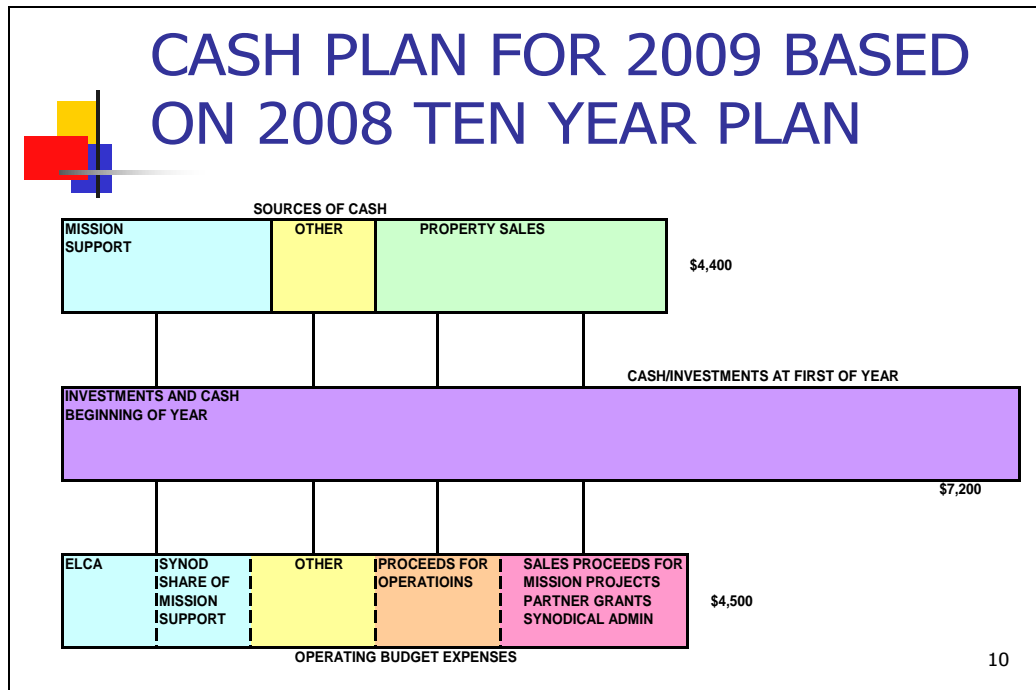
1. *You should not commit to spend funds unless you know where it's coming from.*
2. *You cannot spend money you don't have.*

I didn't invent these axioms. They are at least 2,000 years old. Jesus used them as a well understood fact as Jesus described a man that would be mocked if he planned to build a tower, and did not first sit down and figure out if he had enough to finish it, and did not have enough money to finish it.

There is good news and bad news. The good news is that we have sufficient assets to cover all of the places where we would plan to spend those assets – the cash that would be utilized to fund our expenses. It's about 3 times our annual expenses, but----

The bad news is that most of our assets are in property and in endowment restrictions which reduce our available cash.

# CASH PLAN FOR 2009 BASED ON 2008 TEN YEAR PLAN

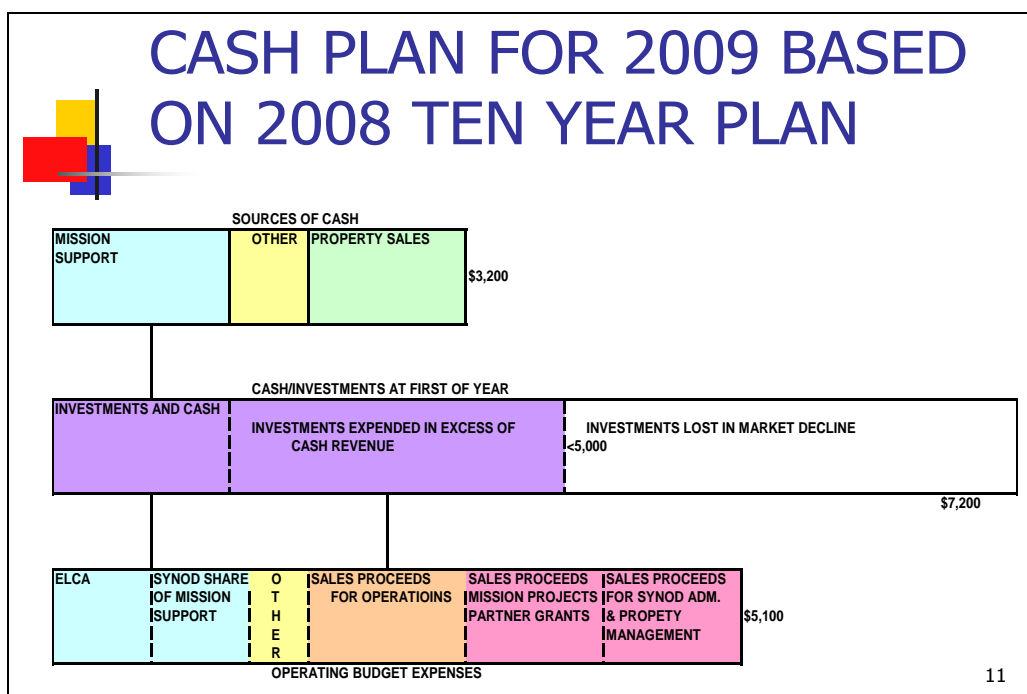


The year 2009 began with a good and frugal budget. This chart shows what our plan was for sources and uses of cash in 2009 when we first presented you with a budget.

The top bar shows where we expected to get new cash – you can see a large amount is from Mission Support, and some from Property sales. Property sales are under constraints and mainly must be used for Mission Projects, Partnership Grants, and costs associated with churches under Synodical Administration. Any cash revenue in 2009 would drop into the middle bar. You will note that even at the start of the year, we had more than enough cash and investments to pay for the entire year, in fact, nearly two years, with no new revenue.

The bottom bar shows how we expected to spend our budget. With a sharp eye, you might have noted that spending plan showed a smidgeon more than expected new cash. But with all of that cash in the middle bar, this did not seem to be a problem.

# CASH PLAN FOR 2009 BASED ON 2008 TEN YEAR PLAN



But 2009 was planned based on data up to 2008 and didn't include a recession, and we were hit by a "perfect storm".

That was the first hurricane of the "perfect storm". You can see in the middle bar that the cash we had was significantly reduced when ELCA's Fund A took a big hit, much the same kind of losses other funds did.

Then, in the top bar, the second part of the storm was that we did not achieve sale proceeds as planned. For instance, the buyer of one of our properties had to back out, at the day before closing, for lack of financing.

All totaled, we had about \$1 million less new cash than planned.

The last piece of the perfect storm is the bottom bar, which reflects that we spent more on churches under Synodical Administration, much of it on properties we had acquired. All totaled, we had about \$600 thousand more expenditures than planned.

So, during the year we used up a lot our invested dollars, as shown on the middle line, leaving us with a very small amount of cash, much of which was reserved for endowments, which we cannot spend.

Late in the year, a cash flow task force was formed, headed by Kathy Schmidt, and the Council approved some sales of other properties, keeping our head above water, although we did have to delay some expenses we had planned. All such delays have since been now paid up to date.

So, in summary, we are healthy with assets, and in the hospital for available cash. We do expect some sizeable sale proceeds in 2010 and early 2011, which will get us at least into out-patient care and a prognosis of full recovery.

### **Topic 3: The Adjusted 2010 Budget and Proposed 2011 Synod Budget**

Given the conditions the 2009 10 - year plan, shown to you on the Synod web page, we updated the prior year, and the 2010 budget was adjusted, and the 2011 proposed budget was formed.

<b>BUDGET REVENUE</b>			(In Thousands)
<b>Item</b>	<b>2010 (As Approved)</b>	<b>2010 (Adjusted)</b>	<b>2011 (Proposed)</b>
From Congregations	1,540	1,445	1,445
Grants and Other Contrib.	381	376	377
Transfers from Funds	1,689	1377	1,475
Other	330	276	255
Mission Re- Dev. Fund	718	600	600
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>4,658</b>	<b>4,074</b>	<b>4,152</b>

The actual budget is on the web site, and a copy of each is in each voter's package. I will present its summary on this and two more slides.

As you will note from the excerpts on this slide, the adjusted 2010 revenue side shows reduced expectations of revenue, resulting in total revenue of \$4.1 million, down from \$4.7 million in the budget this assembly approved, showing smaller expectations from congregational giving and less dependence on funds from property sales.

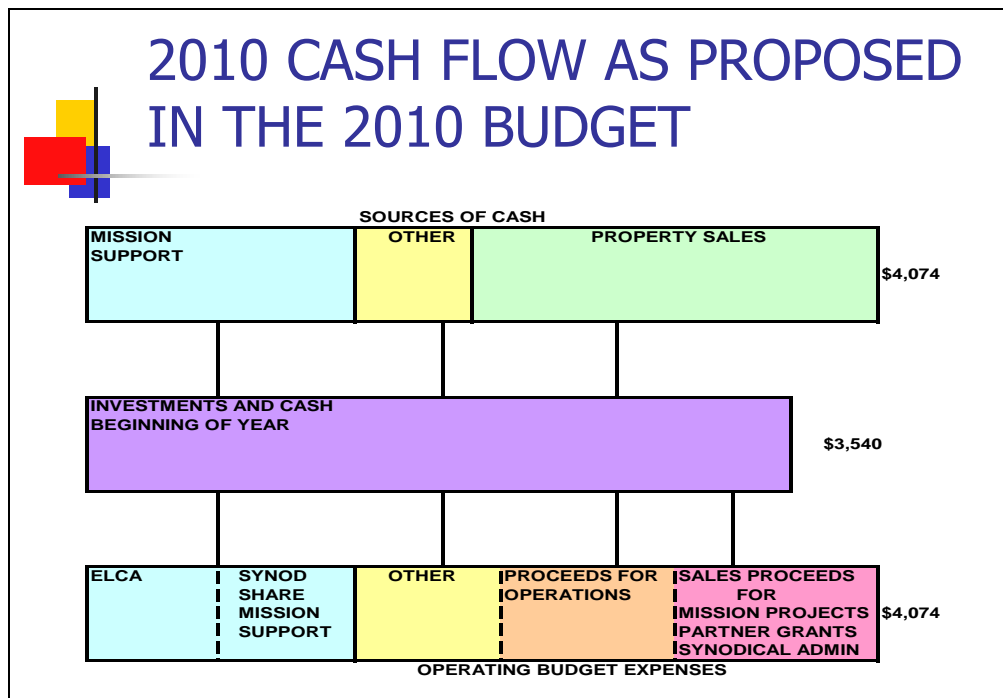
<b>BUDGET EXPENSES (Page 1)</b>			(In Thousands)
<b>Item</b>	<b>2010 (As Approved)</b>	<b>2010 (Adjusted)</b>	<b>2011 (Proposed)</b>
Evangelical Outreach	1,280	1,183	1,196
Global & Multicult.	425	440	466
Congregations	183	161	166
Formation	373	356	362
Mission Proj. & Grants	618	300	300
Synodical Admin	100	300	300
Page Sub-Total	2,979	2,740	2,790

Page one of the expense portion of the budget are program costs of those elements that are related four Assistants to the Bishop with similar titles. From the page sub-total you can see some reduction but not dramatic changes.

<b>BUDGET EXPENSES (Page 2)</b>			(In Thousands)
<b>Item</b>	<b>2010 (As Approved)</b>	<b>2010 (Adjusted)</b>	<b>2011 (Proposed)</b>
Bishop's Office	422	315	324
Communications, PR	143	144	144
Synod Governance	194	143	143
Office Lease	203	194	200
Depreciation	105	105	105
Other Admin	592	433	446
Page Sub-Total	1,679	1,334	1,362
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>4,658</b>	<b>4,074</b>	<b>4,152</b>

Page 2 of the expense portion of the budget shows required frugality going forward. The totals of the expenses match the revenue for all three budgets, so the plan is for zero net income and reflects a reduction of nearly 13% downward adjustment in the 2010 budget, and only a 2% increase for 2011.

The cash position remains critical, but with only one of our anticipated sales, we will see much more daylight.



I thought it might be helpful to your understanding of the budget proposal to see the chart of the proposed adjusted 2010 budget in terms of the sources and uses of cash in 2010. You can see that at the start of this year, we have a reasonable amount of investment and cash, and we plan to use no more cash than the new cash we expect to receive.

Tomorrow you will be asked to vote on two resolutions.

**To Approve the Adjusted 2010 Budget**

**To Approve the Proposed 2011 Budget**

You are also most welcome at the Budget Breakfast at 7:30 tomorrow morning, when members of the Financial Management Committee, Kathy Schmidt, the Bishop's Assistant for Finance and Administration, and I will help you to understand the budget and answer any questions you may have.

Thanks for your attention today, and I hope to see you tomorrow morning at breakfast, and later in the morning when the Budgets will be before you for vote.

Secretary Krauser reported on the progress on the review of the Process for the Election of a Bishop. He told the assembly that he had collected materials from several other synods and judicatories and had created a document comparing their processes. The next step would be to review this with the committee when fully constituted and then to seek feedback from the synod on various options.

At the close of the session Bishop Rimbo called for an update of the registration report. Pr. Brathwaite reported that at 11:30 AM the attendance was:

Clergy	152
Lay Voting members	218
Associates in Ministry	<u>10</u>
Total Voting Members	<b>380</b>

Announcements and prayer concluded the plenary session.

The second plenary session of the Nineteenth Regular Synod Assembly of the Metropolitan New York Synod was called to order by Bishop Robert Alan Rimbo at 1:30 P.M. EDT.

**Bishop's Report**

**Part 1**

Following the prayer by the chaplain, Bishop Rimbo gave his report.

**Introduction**

Two years ago, in this place, you elected me to serve as your bishop. Since that time I have often been overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenges and opportunities before us. It has been my great pleasure to be in every conference and in almost every church building in this synod. I am pleased to say that as I look at your faces, I recognize many of you. And we have just begun a second round of those visitations, now including members of our staff so they can experience the amazing people who make up the Metropolitan New York Synod. By now you should know that, in my opinion, life in the church and, specifically, our life together in the Metropolitan New York Synod and our shared ministry and mission is all about relationships; anything we can do to strengthen the ties that bind us together in Christ is good and godly.

All too often in these reports, bishops like me put important things at the end, almost as an afterthought. Not today. I begin by thanking Lois, my spouse, for her love and support and willingness to be flexible. Lois will join us after school today. She is my second-greatest treasure, the first is God. I also want to thank the elected leaders of this synod – including our committed synod council and various volunteers who serve on committees and help us all in countless ways. And, right at the beginning today, I want to thank the people who have been called by God to serve with me on our synod staff: Pastor Perucy Butiku, Assistant to the Bishop for Ministries of African Descent, who will be installed to that office at our festival Eucharist tonight; Branden Dicks, Administrative Assistant; Sarah Goe, Director of Communication and Interpretation; Kim Grate, Administrative Assistant; Ardath Heard, Volunteer Statistician; Pr. Jack Horner, Assistant to the Bishop for Evangelical Mission; Pastor Jeffrey Kolbo, Candidacy Coordinator; Pastor Kathleen Koran, Assistant to the Bishop for Congregations; Pr. Jonathan Linman, Assistant to the Bishop for Formation; John Litke, Director for Synod Administration; Pastor Gary Mills, Assistant to the Bishop for Global and Multicultural Mission; Deacon Gayle Ruege, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Bishop; Kathleen Schmidt, Assistant to the Bishop for Finance and Administration; and Mary Tennermann, Administrative Assistant. I would invite all of these servants of Christ – from our synod council and our staff – to stand as we express our thanks with our applause.

Shortly before you elected me to be your bishop two years ago, I told the assembly that I would be a one-term bishop because I believed the synod needed an extended interim and I believed whoever was elected bishop would have to make very difficult decisions. Some of those decisions have been made, in careful consultation with our synod council and the staff; many more face us in the future. I promised to be honest with you and I try to uphold that promise in every action in which I engage. This report will reflect that blunt honesty.

**M R I - Missional, Relational, Incarnational**

At last year's synod assembly I used a particular lens to look at our life together, the lens of an M R I. That sounded like a diagnostic tool, and in many ways I suppose it was. In my thinking, M R I stands for *Missional*, *Relational*, and *Incarnational*, three descriptors of the ministry of and in the Metropolitan New York Synod. M R I continues to provide a framework for our ministry, but I want to claim today that it offers not only the opportunity to do a diagnosis but also the opportunity to offer a prognosis. Before I speak to that

prognosis, a bit more of a diagnosis is in order, and here my pledge to be honest and even blunt will be made clear.

### **Present Reality**

I know no other way to share our present reality than to share my perceptions of life in the Metropolitan New York Synod. Please do not take these as pure fact – I cannot claim to have done the exhaustive research needed to guarantee that – but this will give you my view of our synod today and into the near future. This Report will appear on-line, so you need not take notes.

There are 208 congregations, down 31 from the start of the ELCA in 1988. Of these, 54 are served part-time by solo pastors; I predict that another 18 will become part-time when the current pastor leaves or retires. Four of our congregations have two or more full-time pastors; 3 have one full-time pastor and one part-time pastor serving together; 8 are served by non-ELCA pastors. Twelve of these congregations are non-English-speaking and 18 are bi-lingual or multi-lingual.

Of these 208 congregations, 123 have an average worship attendance under 75 and of these 78 have an average attendance under 50. 28 are in pastoral vacancy; 2 of these are served by term-call interims; and 14 will, in my opinion, remain permanent vacancies.

17 of our congregations are behind at least two months in paying salary and/or benefits for their pastors; eight congregation are consistently 3 months behind in paying benefits; and 39 congregations (almost one-fifth of our total) are paying below recommended salary guidelines.

Some of this is guesswork on my part because, frankly, we have received only 124 parochial reports as of May 10, 2010; 35 of our congregations have not submitted a parochial report since 2000. Friends, we are in this ministry together. We need to know about you. We are striving as a staff to be present and accountable and pray that all of our congregations will make that same effort.

In addition, of our 208 congregations, only 74 have sent in Mission Support commitments for this year, which places us in a very difficult position when it comes to planning for mission and ministry as a synod. They are available from Pastor Horner at the Mission display table. The word “synod” means that we are working and walking together. While there are constitutional provisions that state that pastors are to see that this is done, we need all of your to help, not only your pastors.

I fully expect that within seven to ten years our synod will have 150 congregations as compared to the 208 we have now. (I said I would be blunt.) But many of these congregations will be much stronger centers for God’s mission because they will have wisely planned the use of abilities, time and resources. The kinds of efforts being carried on in Brooklyn, Queens, Dutchess County and Sullivan County – difficult and painful as they are – will strengthen us for mission. I remind you that we serve a Savior who invited and urged us to engage in pruning so that there might be new growth. The paschal mystery into which we are all baptized reminds us that there is no resurrection without death. We need to flee from the kind of survival mentality that is focused on keeping decrepit buildings open and dying ministries alive; or, in other words, we need to remember at all times that we are called to invite people to God and not simply to our membership rosters and our financial needs.

While many of these statistics are discouraging to me, there are signs of life that are strongly encouraging. So now let me move to more of a prognosis, again based on my perceptions from visits and conversations with leaders in this synod, a prognosis which is promising. There is a certain danger in using this diagnosis/prognosis model; it smacks of pathology reports and such. So let me say at the outset that I believe the prognosis for

the Metropolitan New York Synod is good, and it is good because we are in Christ. Our diagnosis and our prognosis is rooted in the Gospel and we know how that story ends: with new, risen life for all of us.

People in this synod are reading Scripture in greater numbers, discussing, debating, and engaging in study together. I have been heartened by the impact of the Book of Faith Initiative. Engaging the Bible *has* to be good for us.

Partly as a result of the churchwide assembly's decision to be truly inclusive of all the baptized, people in our neighborhoods and throughout the United States are actually curious about our church body and how it works in a way that none of us could fathom a few years ago. I have heard from pastors in this synod who tell of visitors coming to worship and afterward saying that they are interested in a church that is publicly welcoming of all people; some of these conversations have led to people actually seeking to be baptized in our congregations. While these are anecdotes and I have no hard facts, Jesus tells us that there is great rejoicing over one – even only one – who is found. I am aware of the anxiety and pain in many of our congregations, but I hold on to the rejoicing in others.

Members of our churches are no longer saying “We all believe the same things” but, rather, many are engaged in rich conversation about Lutheran Christian identity and about our faith-lives. I welcome this passionate and deep curiosity and encourage it. In our new round of visitations I am asking lay leaders and rostered leaders to think aloud about what it means that we are Lutherans. We dare not waste this opportunity to engage people more deeply in sharing and living their faith as we follow Jesus in our time.

### **Looking To 2017**

Why do I choose that date? In seven years we will mark the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the Lutheran movement! It will be an exciting time for Lutherans but that excitement should start now.

I invite you to look at three key questions:

*Whose are we?*

*What is God up to in our missional context?*

*What are our vocations as the Metropolitan New York Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?*

### **Whose are we?**

When I dream of 2017, I see all of our synod's rostered leaders and all of our synod's baptized members more deeply-rooted in our Christian and Lutheran faith as we live in a more pluralistic and post-modern culture. How do we remember who we are and whose we are with a sense of openness to who God is calling us to become?

We are called to hold on to the best of our past and let go of those things in our habits and our structures that do not serve the Gospel in the present or are not sustainable. Rather than fall into the sin of dissipation, where we end up exhausted, discouraged or lost, we need to focus on our work of sharing and living out faith as the community of Christ, because we are Christ-followers. We are called, washed, nourished in order to share and live our faith. We are equipped with everything we need to proclaim in deeds and words the Gospel of Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Lord. This synod exists to do the work of sharing a living faith and God has given us the resources to do that.

### **The Bible**

I dream of a synod where we live out life in conversation with God's gifts to us in Scripture, where God breaks us open and knits us together. And here, testimony from our synod staff can be a model.



Our staff now meets on a daily basis for noonday prayer and on a weekly basis for Holy Communion. This has been a rich time in which we, together, dwell in the Word and listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. It has been a remarkable experience as words from God's Book have immediate applications for our daily work. Likewise, we have found renewal in various retreats, not only as staff, but with other leaders in our synod, such as our ministerium. Here again, listening to the voice of God and experiencing that Word in the flesh of the Body of Christ has been profoundly helpful to us.

Many use the Scripture in other ways, shutting down conversations as though they had all the answers. But we're Lutherans. We are on the way, with so many of us engaged in the Book of Faith initiative. This initiative reminds us that we are all invited to a life-long conversation with God speaking law and promise to us and through us again and again.

So I dream of a synod where the majority of adults are engaged in daily Scripture reading and weekly Bible study. What would it take for us to get there? We will continue to work with youth and children, which is of tremendous importance. But our continuing work in child, youth and family ministry includes and, in fact, flows from engaging adults in a deep conversation with Scripture and renewal of other faith practices as well. God's living Word works.

- ♦ *Turn to your neighbor now and share how the Bible has impacted your life and your faith? What difference does it make in your congregation that you have access to the living Word of God?*

### **Lutheran Identity**

As we approach the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Lutheran movement, we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to engage in the key sources of our tradition and deepen our understanding of them. Some Lutherans use the tradition to shut down conversation and circle the wagons. But our history, our traditions and our key texts (like the Lutheran Confessions) can also serve to open rich conversations about what it means to be a Lutheran Christian today. We need to seek ways to engage people in our Lutheran writings, not to box them in but rather to open them up and create platforms to proclaim the Good News, engage in our ongoing ecumenical conversations, and invite people into the distinctive insights of our tradition. Feeding our own members in this way will prepare them for engaging in their many callings as they live and share faith.

There are many ways this could be done, but I hope that in 2017 (or maybe before) we as a synod will be celebrating "The Year of the Catechism." To get you started thinking about that, you have each received a gift. Luther wrote the Small Catechism to begin conversations in families and among leaders. I'm inviting households, congregations, institutions, and our entire synod to find ways to receive the gifts of Luther's writings.

- ♦ *Turn to another neighbor, perhaps someone behind you, and tell them why you are a Lutheran.*
- ♦ *Now tell them the last time you read from the Small Catechism. Be honest!*

In 2017 we will either move away from the historical and confessional writings and traditions, or closer to them. I opt for the latter. We need to engage one another in conversations about what it means to be biblical and Lutheran. This will set us free to engage in God's mission to the world where change threatens to swamp us. We need to move away from complicating people's thoughts toward constructive theological work done by all of us, not just those who are called to our various rosters.

### **What Is God Up To?**

Douglas John Hall says the official religion of our country is optimism. Do you think he's right? I do.

One of the dangers of dreaming about the future is that we fail to do our work of lamenting and grieving our current struggle. In seven years sadness and pain will still be with

us, but I dream that we will continue to find ways to serve together with those sisters and brothers in Christ who have left us to join other church bodies. I dream of a day when our children and grandchildren will find ways to unite the witness of Lutheran Christians. I dream that in 2017 we will have found ways to respect and build a shared baptized life with those who come from the cultural right, middle and left. That will take work. But, while memory is strong, hope is stronger.

Our mission field is swiftly changing. So what is God up to? Where is God calling us to go? Where is God calling us to deepen our work?

There are all kinds of lists, but one of the best I have seen is from an article shared by one of my colleague bishops. It comes from an organization called LifeLongFaith Associates. It names thirteen trends and forces affecting the future of faith formation in a changing church and world. I'm sharing that article with you as a second souvenir of our assembly time together. I urge you to read it later and consider how this impacts your life.

- Trend 1 – Declining Participation in Christian Churches. [It's not just us Lutherans.]
- Trend 2 – Growth in No Religious Affiliation. [People are marking "none of the above" on their multiple-choice questions about membership.]
- Trend 3 – Becoming More "Spiritual" and Less "Religious." [You can see this in any Barnes and Noble: an amazing array of books about spirituality.]
- Trend 4 – Influence of Individuality on Christian Identity and Community Life. [We Americans are victims of rugged individualism. I think our global companions have much to teach us here.]
- Trend 5 – Increasing Social, Cultural, and Religious Diversity in the United States. [We all know this reality. Shall we engage these neighbors from a stance of weakness or strength?]
- Trend 6 – Growing Influence of Hispanic/Latino Religious Faith. [These are great influences and gifts to receive and I pray that we will continue to grow.]
- Trend 7 – Identifying a New Stage of Life: 'Emerging Adulthood.' [Personal experience bears this out; young adults are maturing later than when I was one of them a few years back.]
- Trend 8 – The Rise of a Distinctive Post-Boomer Faith and Spirituality. [Boomers have to do it their own way, after all.]
- Trend 9 – Changing Structure and Patterns of Family Life in the United States. [How do our paradigms need to shift to meet the missional needs of households today? Does the great diversity in biblical family values give us help? And by the way, let's take a closer look at what the Bible really says.]
- Trend 10 – Rediscovering the Impact of Parents and Families on Faith Practice. [Parents are the primary teachers and this generation takes parenting seriously. How do we help them?]
- Trend 11 – Living in a Digital World. [Remember when no one had cell phones and an answering machine was a novelty? My two-year-old grandson has been known to hit speed-dial on his mama's phone and call us.]
- Trend 12 – Educating in New Ways. [What is your preferred learning style?]
- Trend 13 – Increasing Numbers of Adults 65 and Older. [I'm getting there and so are you. Is this massive aging a problem or a blessing? Yes.]

- ♦ *Again in a group of three, ask whether these are accurate in our context. Does your life and ministry reflect these trends?*
- ♦ *What is your home congregation doing to address them?*

We have to begin to find time and space to engage these issues (and others) as we continue to look to the future. We need to give each other permission to experiment and find new models that allow us to share faith in Jesus Christ while engaging new edges in the mission field of our culture and our world. We cannot afford to get lost in analysis without moving into action.

We'll pause here and return later to part two of my report. I invite you to engage in conversation with others around the questions you've already begun to discuss.

Thank you.

At the conclusion of his report, Bishop Rimbo invited the assembly to sing the hymn "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" accompanied by Rick Erickson.

### **Report on the Synod's Finances**

Ms. Kathleen Schmidt, Assistant for Finance and Administration, gave a presentation on the synod's financial position and cash flow

#### **The Synod's Finances: A Partnership in Mission.**

What's this all about? Another finance presentation? Didn't we just hear the report of our esteemed treasurer, Bob Buescher? Well, yes, but I'm here today to tell you the story of the synod's finances – that's right, a story – because although budgets and audited financial statements never make the NYT's bestseller list (nor should they, I might add, lest you think I'm a complete numbers geek), they do actually tell the story of an organization through the language of numbers. But unless you're an accountant or someone who just happens to like numbers, chances are your eyes begin to glaze over rather quickly as you read these "stories," or you become fixated on one or two numbers that just happen to jump out at you and you are unable to move to the next chapter in the story.

One of the most interesting things about numbers is that, unlike words, which can convey great emotion, numbers are completely devoid of emotion until someone attaches emotion to them. You know what I'm talking about. Your child gets their first cell phone but you didn't add unlimited texting to your Verizon family plan. The next bill arrives, and instead of the usual say, \$100, it's \$600. And not just \$600. It's SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS!!!!!!

I joined the synod staff almost a year and a half ago, and during that time, I have had many occasions to witness the powerful emotions that numbers can evoke. And so, when I was asked to do this presentation, I thought I would take you on a journey through the synod's 2010 budget from the point of view of partnership – a partnership in mission between the synod and each of your congregations. You heard our treasurer give an overview of the budget to help prepare you for the vote tomorrow, but my purpose here it to take you through it from a programmatic point of view. I would like you to think beyond the numbers. Ultimately, my goal is to have you look at the budget as a tool for ministry, a means to help us do the work that God has called us to, as partners in mission for Christ.

After I finish telling the story of the synod's budget, I want to spend a few minutes with you about something that has been of great concern to all of us, namely the cash flow crunch that the synod has been dealing with for the last 9 months. I'll give a bit of history on that and let you know where we currently stand.

#### **Introduction**

As I take you on this journey, I would ask that you keep in mind 1 Corinthians 12, where St. Paul suggests that we are one body, and individually, members of it. This metaphor can be applied to our life together as members of the ELCA, for together with our wider church, the Metropolitan New York Synod and its congregations are all members of the same body. And how is this body fed? It requires both spiritual and physical gifts, and I would advocate that one of the physical gifts is money. To enable the ELCA, the synod and its congregation to be Christ's body, it is essential that all members of the body be

accountable to one another for the gifts God has given us and that our financial activities are transparent to all.

Transparency and Accountability – I believe that these principles are the cornerstone upon which successful financial partnerships are built. The finances of the synod must be transparent to all in our congregations, and those of us on the synod staff must all be accountable to you for how the monies entrusted to the synod are spent. This is not just something that I believe – the entire synod staff, beginning with Bishop Rimbo, is committed to achieving the level of transparency and accountability that is necessary for us to truly be partners in mission with each of our congregations. At the same time, our congregations must also abide by these principles in their dealings with the synod, particularly in terms of being accountable to help finance the work of the synod and wider church through Mission Support. Transparency and accountability – it's a two-way street, and I ask that you keep that in mind as I tell you the story of the synod's finances.

### **The Synod's Budget – Questions To Consider**

In telling the story of the synod's budget, my focus will be to address and answer the following questions:

1. How is your congregation's mission support used to benefit the synod as well as the wider church?
2. How much of the synod's budget is allocated to support:
  - The ELCA
  - Mission Projects
  - Partnership Grants
  - Properties under management
  - Congregations under synodical administration
  - Mission and ministry staffing and programs
  - Governance, Communication and Finance staffing and support
3. What is the synod staff doing to ensure good stewardship of the gifts received from congregations, the ELCA, and individuals?

### **The Synod's Budget – A Programmatic View**

The total amended expense budget for 2010 is \$4,074,000, which as our treasurer mentioned earlier, is a reduction of over \$500,000 from what was approved by this Assembly last year. I will speak to this 11% reduction in expenses at a later point.

To examine the budget from a programmatic viewpoint, I've broken it up into 3 broad categories:

1. Mission and Ministry - Support and Grants – which accounts for 47% of the budget, or \$1,918,000
2. Mission and Ministry – Staffing and Programs – accounts for 26% of the budget, or \$1,040,000
3. Governance, Communication and Finance – Staffing and Support – accounts for 27% of the budget, or \$1,116,000

### **Mission and Ministry Support & Grants - \$1,918,000 (47%)**

Almost half of the synod's expense budget, i.e., \$1.9 million, is allocated to directly supporting ministries within our synod as well as the wider church. Does this number surprise you? I know from talking with some folks that not everyone is aware of how much the synod spends on grants and mission projects. Let me take you through the various categories.

Some of the money just passes through our synod office, such as the portion of your mission support that we send on to the ELCA each month, which this year, is budgeted to be \$648,000 or 48% of the total budgeted Mission Support of \$1,350,000. We also receive gifts from congregations that are designated for specific ELCA or MNYS pro-

grams such as World Hunger, Disaster Relief or Lutheran Services New York Alliance. These, too, are forwarded on to the appropriate agencies.

We also support a number of Mission Projects, such as Oceanside or Zion, 119<sup>th</sup> St., where the synod has made a multi-year commitment to a congregation undergoing renewal or perhaps a new mission start.

Then there is the \$200,000 of partnership grants which this year are helping to support ministries in 13 of our congregations and 2 social ministry programs. You will be hearing more about these later in this Assembly.

Education grants – the synod supports the Philadelphia Seminary, Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education, Student Christian Center at SUNY-New Paltz, and the Lutheran Schools Association.

While accounting for only 3% of our total budget, or \$136,000, the funds and resources we contribute to our companion synods in Romania and Tanzania are a vital part of our support for the greater church.

The last piece in this section of the budget is the \$200,000 that is budgeted for congregations under synodical administration. I will cover this in more detail later in my presentation.

The last point I'd like to make is that the responsibility for managing these grants and projects is divided up among the various Executive staff members according to their areas of responsibility; e.g., Pr. Jack Horner is responsible for Partnership Grants, Pr. Jonathan Linman for Education grants, Pastors Percy Butiku and Gary Mills for Companion synods, and John Litke for Synodical Administration. But because the story I'm telling is a programmatic one, I thought it was important to separate out the outright grants from the staffing and other program costs

#### **Mission and Ministry – Staffing & Programs - \$1,026,000 (26%)**

One of the first things I did upon joining the synod staff was to recommend that we re-organize the budget so that it would reflect the staffing structure that Bishop Rimbo had put in place. Doing so provides both transparency and accountability; transparency because anyone looking at the synod's budget can easily tell who on the Executive Staff is responsible for which portion of the budget; and accountability in that each Assistant to the Bishop knows exactly what budget lines fall in his/her area of ministry and he/she must be accountable for how the money is spent.

While each of the categories (Bishop's Office, Evangelical Outreach, Global & Multicultural Ministry, Congregations, and Formation) include expenses such as salaries and benefits, they also include the various programs or committees for which the staff are responsible. I'll point out two examples. Pr. Jack Horner's area of Evangelical Outreach includes expenses associated with the Mission Resources Table, the Mission Strategy Table and the Stewardship and Mission Support Table. Pr. Jonathan Linman's area of Formation encompasses expenses related to Children, Youth and Family Ministries, Ministerium and other education events, Boundary Workshops, the Candidacy, Dean's and Bishop's retreats.

And again, I want to remind you that all of the support and grants included are actually allocated to specific budget areas (e.g., Evangelical Outreach, Formation, etc.), so if you compare these to the budget spreadsheet you received in your materials, you'll have to add some numbers together. If you really love numbers that much, feel free to catch me later if you've got questions.

#### **Governance, Communication & Finance – Staffing & Support - \$1,116,000 (27%)**

The last piece of the budget encompasses synod governance, communication, and finance staffing and support. These areas total about 27% of the budget. I think that both Sarah Gioe, the Director of Communications for the synod and I, as the Assistant to the Bishop for Finance and Administration, could well argue that many of the expenses associated with our areas, could easily be allocated among the various ministry programs within the synod. However, for simplicity's sake, I have kept these categories separated, out along with synod governance.

The Finance, Administration and Office Services area accounts for 11% of the budget, or \$431,000. It includes salaries and benefits for Branden Dicks and me, repairs and maintenance, property insurance, as well as all general office services, such as printing, office supplies, telephone, and IT services.

Our rent currently accounts for about 4% of our budget. I will address our office space a bit more in a few minutes. And although not a cash item, depreciation runs about \$100,000 a year and accounts for 2% of our budget.

Communications, PR and Interpretation – this includes salary and benefits for Sarah Gioe, but also the cost of maintaining our website and producing and printing the *Lutheran New Yorker*

The cost of producing the Synod Assembly accounts for 87% of the expense portion of the Synod Governance budget, or \$125,000. Of course, much of the expense is offset by the registration fees that congregations pay, which this year is budgeted at \$70,000, so the net expense to the synod for the Assembly will be at least \$55,000 this year.

So, that's the overview of the synod's budget for this year from a programmatic perspective. Hopefully by providing some detail behind the major budget categories, I've been able to give you a better sense of how the synod funds its ministries.

### **Faithful Stewardship**

What is the synod staff doing to ensure good stewardship of the gifts received from congregations, the ELCA, and individuals?

First, analyze the budget and reduce non-programmatic spending where possible – this is probably the first thing most people think about. Well, guess what? We have cut costs, and have done so significantly. As mentioned earlier, the amended 2010 budget is more than half a million dollars lower than the amount the Assembly approved last year. Administrative expenses associated with running the office have been reduced from 31% of the total budget to 27%, a reduction of \$163,000. We are in the process of negotiating with the Interchurch Center to give up 20% of our space as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. That will further reduce our administrative expenses by an additional \$37,000 a year, so we will have reduced admin expenses in total by \$200,000, or about 5% of our annual budget. In addition, the total number of staff was reduced from 15 to 13, and all salaries were frozen for the 2010 fiscal year.

But ensuring good stewardship of the resources entrusted to us isn't just about cutting costs. It's also about following up with those congregations or institutions that have received grants from the synod, not only to gain a better understanding as to how the grants are helping their mission and ministries, but also to offer our assistance or guidance where needed.

A very important part of being good stewards of what is contributed to the synod is to communicate to you and to all of our constituents HOW we are spending the money, and that is something that is often forgotten. This is something we are trying to remedy. You will begin to see more articles in the synod's e-letter relating to particular ministries we are funding. After all, what's more meaningful – me telling you that the synod is giving

out partnership grants in the amount of \$200,000 for the 2010 fiscal year, or reading an article about how one congregation has been able to serve an additional 5,000 meals to the homeless, thanks to a grant from us, or that a congregation located in a neighborhood with lots of children has been working to build its youth ministry, and is now able to fund a part-time youth director because they received a partnership grant from the synod?

That's what I mean about the story – it's not just about the numbers. They're important, to be sure, but ultimately, it's what you do with the funds that make up those numbers in the budget that's important.

### **The Cash Flow Issue – The “Perfect Storm”**

Let's move on to an overview of the cash flow issue.

I think our treasurer described it best, when he said that the synod was hit by a “perfect storm” last year. Let me reinforce a few of his points and add some of my own.

- First, the collapse of the financial markets caused a severe economic recession, resulting in a loss of approximately 30%, or about \$2.0 million of the synod's investment in ELCA Fund A. ELCA Fund A is where the synod keeps its endowment funds and unrestricted funds, as well as excess cash not currently needed for day-to-day operations.
- Second, mission support fell by 10% during 2009. And while part of that is certainly attributable to the recession, a portion of it, I believe, is due to the fact that sometimes we let worldly things and concerns get in the way of our stewardship, rather than constantly remembering that stewardship is no more and no less than our response to God's generosity to us.
- The third piece of the perfect storm is the “Asset Rich – Cash Poor Syndrome” which is currently afflicting the synod. Because the recession caused the real estate market to fall dramatically, the synod was unable to sell any of the approximately \$15 million worth of properties on its books for over a year. And while I would like to reiterate that the synod is NOT in the real estate business, we do find ourselves holding properties after congregations close. Although those properties may ultimately be sold for significant amounts of money, as you will see in a few minutes, the synod has had to spend millions of dollars related to those congregations and properties prior to the actual sale of the property. That's cash out the door, folks. And sometimes it doesn't come back in the door for years.
- The fourth piece of the perfect storm involves one of our congregations and is directly related to the dramatic decline in the real estate market. Zion Lutheran Church, one of our Latino ministries, with property on East 119<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan, had entered into an agreement with the synod several years ago whereby the synod would loan them up to \$1,000,000 to cover the cost of demolishing their old church building, to hire an architect to develop plans that would include not only a new church facility with condominiums on the property, and to cover the ongoing costs of Zion's ministry until such time as the new building was completed. This was a very exciting and creative partnership between the synod and one of its congregations and all was set to move forward when the market collapsed and the developer backed out of the deal. Finally, about six months ago, we found another developer, but at this point, we are still waiting for them to obtain financing for the project. If the recession hadn't occurred, most, if not all, of the loan would have been repaid to the synod by now. However, at this point, the synod still has an outstanding loan on its books for \$1 million. Again, that's cash out the door. We know we'll get this money back, but the timing of repayment is still uncertain at this point.
- And the final piece of the perfect storm, which is intricately connected to the “asset rich-cash poor syndrome,” is that over the last two years, the synod incurred expenses that were significantly over budget relating to congregations under synodical administration, and because of the recession, we were unable to sell any properties for over a year, which would have helped us to cover those costs..

### **Cumulative Expenses Paid for Congregations under Administration (as of 2009)**

The first thing I want to say about this item is that it represents the total expenses paid by the synod for 14 congregations or former congregations (that is, congregations that have closed but the synod still holds the property) for the period 2001 through the end of our last fiscal year, January 31, 2010. Of the 14, six congregations were under temporary synodical administration for just a few months in 2009, but they're included here because the synod did cover over \$100,000 of their expenses during that time.

The total spending in 2008 and 2009 far exceeded the totals for all earlier years combined. And if you combine all the years together, the total amount expended by the synod on behalf of these congregations or former congregations was \$3.8 million as of January 31, 2010. That's a lot of cash out the door that hasn't come back yet.

I believe this clearly shows that the synod can't help but have a cash flow crunch if there are amounts going all the way back to 2001 that have yet to be recovered.

Let's look in more detail at the 2009 expenses.

- During the 2009 fiscal year, the synod paid out more than \$1.3 million relating to mission projects and congregations under synodical administration. However, the total budgeted for the year was \$700,000, so as our treasurer pointed out, we expended about \$600,000 more than had been planned.
- In addition, the synod's loans to congregations increased about \$325,000, which also affected cash flow.
- So, why was there such a difference between the amount budgeted and the actual amount spent? Let me quickly give you a list of five items that make up a significant portion of the total spent of \$1.3 million:
  - St. Stephen's, Brooklyn, who had voted to close their school at the end of the 2008-2009 school year, found themselves unable to pay their teachers salaries for the last several months of the school year. The synod agreed to loan them the money to cover this expense. **Total cost - \$150,000**
  - St. Peter's, 140<sup>th</sup> St., in the Bronx, had one of their buildings confiscated by the City of New York due to their failure to file their annual real estate tax exemption form. In order to get the building back, the synod stepped in and paid the penalties and fines. **Total cost - \$160,000**
  - At Holy Trinity Lutheran School in Hollis, the tuition payments received fell short of covering the school's expenses for the year. **Total cost - \$212,000**
  - Extensive repairs, incl. window replacements, were needed at Bethany, Brooklyn. **Total cost - \$166,000**
  - Six congregations requested temporary synodical administration during 2009. Although removed from synodical administration later in the year, the synod covered some of their expenses for those few months. **Total cost - \$118,000**

These 5 items total about **\$800,000**, most if not all of which was not anticipated at the time the budget was prepared.

- Although the money spent for congregations under permanent synodical administration is recovered once the congregation closes and the property is sold, that is, more often than not, a long-term proposition, and does not alleviate the cash flow problem in the short run.

To summarize – the total cash as of the end of the last fiscal year that has been paid out by the synod and that is expected to be reimbursed to the synod as properties are sold/loans are repaid:

▪ Congregations under synodical administration (\$3.8 million less the \$285,000 that was repaid from the sale of three parsonages)	\$3.5 million
▪ Loans to congregations	<u>\$1.4 million</u>
TOTAL	<b>\$4.9 million</b>

### **Synod Cash Flow Issue – Synod Council Actions Taken**



What has the synod done to address the cash flow issue?

- As Bob Buescher said, a Cash Flow Task Force was appointed and it made several recommendations to the Synod Council which were adopted at its meeting last September.
- Although partnership grants were cut by 10% for the period September 2009-January 2010, the funding amount was fully restored this year.
- One mission project grant was terminated early. This was a three year grant to Messiah, Flushing that was scheduled to end in January 2010. It was terminated as of September 2009. The total grant was to be \$322,000, of which \$278,000 was actually paid)
- All other mission projects and grants remain in force.
- The most significant recommendations involved several properties owned by the synod.
- Properties put up for sale in Fall 2009
- Parsonages for three closed congregations
  - St. Peter's, Brooklyn – sold Dec. 2009 (\$550,000)
  - Bethany, Brooklyn – sold in Jan. 2010 (\$700,000)
  - Good Shepherd, Bayside – sold in Feb. 2010 (\$600,000)The synod was reimbursed \$285,000 out of the sales proceeds for incurred by these properties during the time the synod owned them.
- Christ, Yonkers  
A Ministry Review was completed in August 2009. The review team recommended that the synodically authorized worshipping community be closed. The Synod Council voted to close Christ, Yonkers at its Sept. 2009 meeting. Christ Congregation held its last service on November 1, 2009. \$700,000 was freed up that had been held in a special account for this ministry.
- Holy Trinity, Hollis  
Synod Council voted to close the congregation at its September 2009 meeting. The congregation held its last service on November 1, 2009. The property was put on the market in November 2009 with an asking price of \$3.5 million. The total amount paid by synod to help cover expenses from 2001-2009: \$1.7 million.
- Several properties are currently on the market
  - St. Paul's, Richmond Hill – in contract for \$1.8 million and is expected to close sometime this summer. If the sale of St. Paul's closes, our cash flow situation should be stable through the remainder of this fiscal year. However, as our treasurer pointed out, cash flow is still an issue for the future, and we need to continue towards finding the appropriate solution to this problem
- The Financial Management Committee has been charged by the Synod Council to develop a 10-year plan incorporating various scenarios.

### **The Synod's Finances: A Partnership In Mission**

"We are one body, and individually, members of it."

And as part of this one body, what goes on in all of our congregations, in all of our conferences, throughout our synod, and throughout the wider church, is important to each and every one of us

We must all take ownership of the body.

We must all rejoice in this one body.

*Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

### **Report from the ELCA Board of Pensions**

Ms. Barbara Debski, a representative of the ELCA Board of Pensions, discussed the impact of the financial turmoil on the ministry of the Board of Pensions. She reported on core investment

performance, noting the practice of investment for the long term. She also reported that the annuity fund was on track to recovery. As for the administration of the Board, she reported that expenses had been cut by 7%, and that no salary increases had been granted for the current year. She expressed the regret of the Board that no annuity option for retiring members was currently available, but that the Board was working toward the goal to reopening annuity fund and providing for companion annuity options.

She briefly reviewed change in the healthcare plan and the wellness program. She reported that in 2010 the sponsored health contribution only increased 2%.

### **Report of the ELCA Representative**

The Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla was welcomed by Bishop Rimbo as the representative from the ELCA to the assembly. Pr. Malpica Padilla serves as the ELCA's Executive Director for Global Mission. He began his report with a video from Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson, then gave the following address.

#### **God's Extreme Global Makeover**

Dear Friends in Christ, it is a pleasure to be with you as you gather at your synod assembly to celebrate our common call to mission. On behalf of the Churchwide Organization and the other 64 synods and congregations in the ELCA, I thank you for your partnership in the gospel and for your mission support that enables us to serve God's mission of restoring community. To the many people of this synod that share their leadership with the wider church on program committees, task forces, the church council, and in other capacities, our heartfelt gratitude.

The theme for this year's video is evangelism. The stories in the video will illustrate how "everyday evangelists", the members of our congregations, are active in their communities and will connect the dots between local and national/global ministries. Let's hear from our presiding bishop.

"Come, let us rebuild the walls of Jerusalem..." (Nehemiah 2:17b)

These words were spoken by the Prophet Nehemiah to the community that stayed in Jerusalem and had escaped the captivity in Babylon. Nehemiah had a vision placed in his heart; to rebuild the walls of the City of God.

I just returned from Jerusalem a couple of days ago. While walking outside of the walls of the city of Jerusalem I remembered this text, and looking at this wall, pondered about the enormity of the task ahead for Nehemiah and the community. The enormity of the task was not only in terms of brick and mortar but more so in how would Nehemiah would inspire and motivate people that felt like dry bones; people for whom all horizons have collapsed; peoples whose spirit was amputated and for whom life was no longer worth living.

I come before you not to give a report of the accomplishment (or lack thereof) in the last year, but with an invitation, similar to the one issued by Nehemiah, Come let us rebuilt. God has called us in our baptism to be part of God's mission to the world. This mission is, as we define it in our theology of mission, to restore community. The work of Christ is God's invitation to "Come, let us rebuild," for in him, as the Apostle Paul says, God restores community with us and invites us to be reconciled and to restore community among ourselves. We know and we affirm that this is God's work through our hands. Think about the many lives that we touch on a day-to-day basis through the ministry of the congregations in this synod and of the wider church. As Lutherans, we have a strong tradition of joining hands to do God's work and, together, we do God's work in ways that

no individual, congregation or synod can do alone. I think about Lutheran Social Service ministries, bringing wholeness to fragmented lives; institutions of higher education preparing women and men for leadership in church and in society, and campus ministries nurturing the spiritual life of our students and engaging them in life-long discipleship; outdoor ministries providing a space to explore faith issues; seminaries shaping the church vocation of hundreds of people who want to serve the Lord and proclaim the good news of the gospel in our communities.

In my work I do spend a lot of time in airplanes. It is inevitable that during the course of the trip you will engage your seatmate in conversation. Very often the icebreaker question is "what do you do for living?" If I want to end the conversation right there I reply "I am a pastor," for no one wants to listen to a sermon for the next 13 hours en route to Tokyo. However, if I want to engage the person I often respond with another question, and the conversation goes something like this: Have you seen the TV program Extreme Home Makeover? Yes, do you work for them? No, but I do something a little bit similar. In my work we go to communities around the globe and engage with them in addressing some of the challenges they face, putting to good use the resources they have. In some communities it might be a clinic to provide primary health care, or a school, or projects for sustainable agriculture, water management and irrigation programs, work with people living with HIV and AIDS, Malaria prevention, and telling good news to people that live in exclusion, or fear, alone, or are trying to find meaning for their lives. Wow, that is really interesting, what is the name of your organization? Well we call it the church. I am a Lutheran pastor serving in the global mission of our church.

Friends, this is what we do together. This is God's work through our hands. This is our mission support dollars at work enabling us to engage globally and locally in extreme makeovers: From Zimbabwe where political unrest, tremendous scarcity of food hyper-inflation, with the resulting implosion of institutions and government infrastructure has led to a major breakdown and disruption of life in this country. There we have provided seeds for planting this year crop, food to mitigate hunger and starvation, and medical supplies and financial assistance to continue to operate the church's hospital (the only ones that were working in their region). From Zimbabwe to the streets of Minneapolis at Our Redeemer Oromo Evangelical Church serving the immigrant community and second generation Ethiopian community. From Denver at the House for All Saints and Sinners church reaching out to our younger generation and people who had been kept at the margins of church life. By the way check their website: This week they are discussing Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book *Life Together* and today they have their Beer and Hymn Fest at a local bar. From Denver to the highlands of Malaysia where the Orang Asli had open their hearts to Christ and gather around word and sacrament. We were present and serving in the midst of devastation wrought by tsunamis and earthquakes in China Indonesia, India, Haiti and Chile. We were there to weep with the thousands that lost loved ones and to bring home one of our own, our beloved Ben Larson. We are present in the deserts of Iraq and Afghanistan with our chaplains providing pastoral care to our troops and our pastors and congregations ministering to their families back home.

We are shaped by our missional identity, and it is this identity that propels us into the world with the gospel of salvation and hope to engage in God's extreme makeover. Because of the faithful commitment of the members of this church, the ELCA continues to accomplish its purposes to proclaim God's saving Gospel, to carry out Christ's Great Commission, to serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, to worship God, to nurture members in the Word of God, and to manifest unity.

Acknowledging some of the changes that have happened in our society and in this church, we are asking how this church can, in its various expressions, participate most effectively in carrying out God's mission in the world. In collaboration with the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops, Presiding Bishop Hanson has appointed a Task Force from across the ELCA whose task is to develop and recommend options for the

future of the ELCA in light of its identity, changes in its environment and its call to mission. Two questions frame the scope of its work: What is God calling this church to be and to do in the future, and what changes are in order to help us respond most faithfully? This process is called LIFT –Living Into the Future Together, and as part of it, the task force is seeking as much input as possible from you and all individuals across this church. You are encouraged to visit [www.liftelca.org](http://www.liftelca.org). Here you will find information about the project and how you can participate.

As we continue to reflect on these questions, we must not lose sight of what we are already doing: The Book of Faith Initiative, which aims to help deepen people in the “first language of faith,” the language of Scripture; 32 mission starts and 208 mission developers; the Mission Investment Fund which supports ELCA congregations and related ministries, The Fund For Leaders, assisting our seminarians in the preparation for mission and ministry, the World Hunger Appeal enabling us to work toward the alleviation of hunger and mitigating suffering in the world.

Here in this synod we have tremendous opportunities for growth and service. The rich diversity his city has to offer is reflected in the life of our congregations. We worship in twenty languages. Yes, we too experience here the financial challenges that call into question the financial viability of some of our ministries. But together, congregations, synods, and churchwide, the whole of the ELCA, together we can. We have been gifted. We have been called, gathered, and sent, to proclaim God’s creating, redeeming, and sanctifying activity to the world.

Come let us rebuild!

The Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla  
May 11, 2010

### **Report: Children, Youth and Family Ministries**

Pr. Jonathan Linman introduced Deacon Charles Germain to report on the activities of the committee in many place in our synod. A report was given on the national youth gathering and a multinational youth event. From a list of five nominees the Heart of Ministry Award of Distinction was given to Advent in Manhattan.

### **Report of Candidacy Committee**

Pr. Jeffrey Kolbo reported on the candidates approved for ordination in this year. His complete report of the work of the committee is in the bulletin of reports.

- ✘ **Linda Bell**, candidate for Ordained Ministry, New Brunswick Theological Seminary; The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Ms. Bell is a member of The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Roosevelt. Linda is assigned to the MNYS for first call.
- ✘ **David Bruner**, candidate for Ordained Ministry, Princeton Theological Seminary; Luther Seminary, St. Paul. Mr. Bruner is a member of Trinity Lower East Side Lutheran Parish. He was assigned to the Central Southern Illinois Synod and called be an Associate Pastor at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Bloomington, Illinois.
- ✘ **Robert Cederstrom**, candidate for Ordained Ministry, New York Theological Seminary; The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Mr. Cederstrom is a member of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Babylon. He was assigned to the MNYS and called to Christ Lutheran Church, New Hyde Park.
- ✘ **Mark Erson**, candidate for Ordained Ministry, The General Theological Seminary, NYC; The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Mr. Erson is a member of St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Manhattan. He was assigned to the MNYS and called to Redeemer Lutheran Church in Queens Village.

- ✘ **Dana Heiserer**, candidate for Ordained Ministry, The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Ms. Heiserer is a member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Lake Ronkonkoma. She was assigned to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod for call.
- ✘ **Dolores McKay**, candidate for Ordained Ministry, The General Theological Seminary; The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Ms. McKay is a member of First Lutheran Church, Throggs Neck. Dolores was assigned to MNYS and called to United Lutheran Church in Mt. Vernon.
- ✘ **Fernando Otero**, candidate for Admission to the ELCA Roster of Ordained Ministers – ordained another Christian Tradition. Pastor Otero is a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Bronx.
- ✘ **Joel Washington**, candidate for Ordained Ministry, The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Mr. Washington is a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Manhattan. Joel was assigned to MNYS for call.
- ✘ **Robert Weber**, candidate for Ordained Ministry, The Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary at Columbia. Mr. Weber is a member of Trinity-St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Maspeth. Mr. Weber was assigned to MNYS for call.

### **Project Connect**

Leaders in Project Connect described the work of this initiative to encourage vocations and 18-23 year olds. Project Connect is overseen by Pr. Elise Brown, Pr. Brenda Jack and Pr. Mark Erson and is funded by a grant from Lilly Foundation to support traditional denominations. Over time, support for this program will shift from grant to local support.

Project Connect works to help key leaders in working to develop groups of local pastors to create relationships with young people throughout the synod. An event for young adults will be held in June. Assembly members were invited to bring young adults to the event.

Vicar Stephanie Kershner told of her experience participating in a future clergy group at Advent, Manhattan several years ago. Pastors Ann Tiemeyer and Elise Brown encouraged her to prayerfully consider ministry.

People of faith can change the world. Young adults have a place in every aspect of ministry in every church. How do you begin to get young adults involved?

### **Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia**

Dr. Philip Krey and Ms. Emma Porter greeted the assembly on behalf of our seminary. Following a video presentation, they acknowledged synod treasurer, Bob Buescher, who serves on the board of the seminary foundation, and Pr. Elise Brown and Dr. Earl Marsan, who serve as trustees. Ms. Porter also serves as the secretary of the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Krey informed the assembly of the “tagline” adopted by the seminary, which embodies its work: Of the Spirit in the World. This expression well describes the seminary’s 146 years of preparing leadership for the church.

The financial pressures of the day have been felt at the seminary also. It has to tighten its belt and has cut its budget by 20%. To be effective stewards they are in “deep conversations” with the seminary in Gettysburg and in the cluster with Southern Seminary and with Lancaster Seminary about efficiencies. It is hoped that they will be able to save \$1,000,000 each through cooperative efforts.

A new “Intersections” was described by Dr. Krey as one which invites those who want to change the world as we know it, and seeks to provide support and dialog with persons in business, social work, etc., and theology.

The synod was thanked for its generosity and support. Pr. Krey reported that Building in Faith for People in Faith Campaign was completed, exceeding its goal. The goal had been established at \$10,000,000 and is projected to have raised \$21,000,000. The seminary’s next capital project will be to increase accessibility of the chapel and library.

The report concluded with the announcement that Pr. John Huneke will be honored with an honorary degree. Pr. Huneke set up an endowment for candidates from MNYS.

## **Report of Reference and Counsel**

Pr. Scott Kershner asked the assembly to begin with Item A. Pr. Kershner read the resolves of the resolution.

### **Item A A Resolution on Energy Stewardship<sup>1</sup>**

*Whereas*, we in the industrialized world are consuming energy and Earth’s resources in a way that is both unsustainable in the future and unfair to those in the developing world; and there are disturbing scientific reports of environmental degradation, global climate change, a record rate of species extinction, and a depletion of non-renewable resources that should give us pause; and

*Whereas*, human activity, especially the over-consumption of energy and resources, appears to be a critical driver in these changes in climate and environmental distress, both causing harm to God’s creation and exacerbating already difficult situations for millions living with poverty and hunger, as weather extremes such as flood and drought increase; and

*Whereas*, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, recognizing the gravity of these threats, has long been committed to addressing environmental issues as part of our call to justice, sustainability, and solidarity with affected communities and, along with our partners in the Lutheran World Federation and Lutheran World Relief, committed to working to alleviate hunger, poverty, and unsustainable living conditions globally; therefore, be it

*RESOLVED*, that the congregations, administrative offices, and outdoor ministry facilities of this synod be encouraged to offer a public witness of energy stewardship by: (1) Measuring the greenhouse gas emissions (i.e., “carbon footprint”) of the facilities they own, to establish a baseline starting point; and (2) With the guidance of the synod’s Environmental Stewardship Committee [see Addendum<sup>2</sup> to this resolution], conduct an energy audit to determine what options there are for

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### <sup>2</sup> **Addendum to Item A**

#### **Background**

This resolution builds upon a history of past statements and actions in this synod and across the ELCA, calling us to cherish and tend God’s creation as part of our loving and serving God and neighbor. Recognizing our call to eco-justice, to addressing hunger and poverty, to faithful stewardship of creation and our finances, this resolution offers a bold witness and a plan for action. It is hoped that a number of synods across the ELCA will adopt this resolution this year (and that additional synods will follow suit in 2011), as a way to encourage and challenge one another to reduce our energy use and lessen our carbon footprint.

The goal of a 25- 40 % reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 is in line with what the ELCA has been advocating for at the Federal level, through the ELCA’s Washington Office. Setting this goal is a way for us to “walk the talk,” as well as to save money from energy expenses for use in other areas of mission and ministry.

#### **Implementing This Resolution**

Our synod’s Environmental Stewardship Committee with the help of *Lutherans Restoring Creation*, stands ready to offer assistance and guidance on the implementation of this resolution and in the sharing of your congregation’s results with others. Our synod Team will be in contact with LRC and others that are joining in this effort in a collaborative, coordinated initiative across the ELCA.

Synod Environmental Stewardship Committee contact info: [MNYES@googlegroups.com](mailto:MNYES@googlegroups.com), Grace Yukich, chair.

\* For tools to measure your carbon footprint, see [www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org](http://www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org) (Anticipated ready date, Sept 2010).

reducing energy use; and (3) Make a commitment to decrease their carbon footprint by a certain percentage over a specified period of time through energy conservation, efficiency, or clean energy measures; and be it further

*RESOLVED*, that the congregations, administrative offices, and outdoor ministry facilities of this synod be invited to share this information with the Environmental Stewardship Committee, synod office and, where applicable, on ELCA congregational reporting forms, and subsequently also share what energy-saving steps were taken, and what measurable energy savings have been realized, as evidenced in a lower carbon footprint measurement; and be it further

*RESOLVED*, that this synod memorialize the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at its 2011 Churchwide Assembly to challenge all expressions of the ELCA to reduce their energy-related greenhouse gas emissions by at least 5 percent per year with the ultimate goal of reducing these emissions 25-40 percent by 2020, and to share this commitment and steps taken to achieve it in a public way in official publications and communication channels of this church.

—Submitted by the Environmental Stewardship Committee of the Metro New York Synod

—Committee Recommendation: Reference and Counsel recommends adoption of this Resolution.

Ms. Grace Yukich, chair of the Environmental Stewardship committee, described to the purpose of the resolution as trying to put some more concrete goals for ourselves. She noted that it did not establish requirements, but goals to reach toward. She ask the assembly to support the resolution. Bishop Rimbo asked if there were additional speakers. There being none, he asked the assembly to vote on the resolution.

## On Item A

Adopted  
SA2010.5.1

***RESOLVED*, that the congregations, administrative offices, and outdoor ministry facilities of this synod be encouraged to offer a public witness of energy stewardship by: (1) Measuring the greenhouse gas emissions (i.e., “carbon footprint”) of the facilities they own, to establish a baseline starting point; and (2) With the guidance of the synod's Environmental Stewardship Committee [see Addendum<sup>3</sup> to this**

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\* For tools to conduct a comprehensive energy audit of your congregation or home, consult with the Environmental Stewardship Committee or Caring for Creation Taskforce.

### Additional Resources for Use in Congregational Forums

The following educational and informational materials are highly recommended to help congregants understand the importance of taking these actions, as part of our faith witness:

See [www.elca.org/caringforcreation](http://www.elca.org/caringforcreation) for:

- Climate Change Fact Sheet (2 page pdf)
  - What Can You Do? (2 page pdf)
  - Poverty and Hunger in a Changing Climate (4 page pdf)
  - Climate Change and Hunger in Nicaragua (DVD, 10 min), ELCA study trip Jan 2009
  - “As long as the earth endures” (6 page pdf) discussion guide for use with the DVD
- \*Hard copies of many of these are available – See synod Team and/or assembly display table.

ELCA World Hunger Program [www.elca.org/hunger/toolkit](http://www.elca.org/hunger/toolkit) for educational materials that show how hunger and climate change are connected.

The Pew Center on Global Climate Change [www.pewclimate.org](http://www.pewclimate.org) (non-partisan; sound science).  
See also <http://www.pewclimate.org/WhatYouCanDo/tips>

ELCA 1993: *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice* [www.elca.org/socialstatements](http://www.elca.org/socialstatements)

*Lutherans Restoring Creation* (LRC) [www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org](http://www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org)

### <sup>3</sup> Addendum to Item A

#### Background

This resolution builds upon a history of past statements and actions in this synod and across the ELCA, calling us to cherish and tend God's creation as part of our loving and serving God and neighbor. Recognizing our call to eco-justice, to addressing hunger and poverty, to faithful stewardship of creation and our

resolution], conduct an energy audit to determine what options there are for reducing energy use; and (3) Make a commitment to decrease their carbon footprint by a certain percentage over a specified period of time through energy conservation, efficiency, or clean energy measures; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the congregations, administrative offices, and outdoor ministry facilities of this synod be invited to share this information with the Environmental Stewardship Committee, synod office and, where applicable, on ELCA congregational reporting forms, and subsequently also share what energy-saving steps were taken, and what measurable energy savings have been realized, as evidenced in a lower carbon footprint measurement; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this synod memorialize the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at its 2011 Churchwide Assembly to challenge all expressions of the ELCA to reduce their energy-related greenhouse gas emissions by at least 5 percent per year with the ultimate goal of reducing these emissions 25-40 percent by 2020, and to share this commitment and steps taken to achieve it in a public way in official publications and communication channels of this church.

Pr. Kershner presented Item C next.

#### **Item C      A Resolution for a Year of Forgiveness and Healing**

*Whereas*, we pray “your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” and “forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us”; and

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finances, this resolution offers a bold witness and a plan for action. It is hoped that a number of synods across the ELCA will adopt this resolution this year (and that additional synods will follow suit in 2011), as a way to encourage and challenge one another to reduce our energy use and lessen our carbon footprint.

The goal of a 25- 40 % reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 is in line with what the ELCA has been advocating for at the Federal level, through the ELCA's Washington Office. Setting this goal is a way for us to “walk the talk,” as well as to save money from energy expenses for use in other areas of mission and ministry.

#### **Implementing This Resolution**

Our synod's Environmental Stewardship Committee with the help of *Lutherans Restoring Creation*, stands ready to offer assistance and guidance on the implementation of this resolution and in the sharing of your congregation's results with others. Our synod Team will be in contact with LRC and others that are joining in this effort in a collaborative, coordinated initiative across the ELCA.

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See [www.elca.org/caringforcreation](http://www.elca.org/caringforcreation) for:

- Climate Change Fact Sheet (2 page pdf)
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  - Poverty and Hunger in a Changing Climate (4 page pdf)
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The Pew Center on Global Climate Change [www.pewclimate.org](http://www.pewclimate.org) (non-partisan; sound science).

See also <http://www.pewclimate.org/WhatYouCanDo/tips>

ELCA 1993: *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice* [www.elca.org/socialstatements](http://www.elca.org/socialstatements)

*Lutherans Restoring Creation* (LRC) [www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org](http://www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org)



*Whereas*, Jesus instructed his disciples concerning how many times we are to forgive, saying, “not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy times seven” (Matthew 18:22), and further taught, “Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses” (Mark 11:25); and

*Whereas*, Jesus was able to speak words of forgiveness even from the cross, saying: “Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34); and

*Whereas*, we read: “Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive” (Colossians 3:13), and again: “Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you” (Ephesians 4:31-32); and

*Whereas*, institutions are as flawed as the humanity that governs them and are, therefore, in constant need of forgiveness; and

*Whereas*, debates dealing with sensitive and passionate issues over this past decade have caused division among brothers and sisters in Christ; and

*Whereas*, the Holy Spirit “calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith. [And] daily in this Christian church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins” (*Small Catechism*); therefore, be it

*RESOLVED*, that all members of this synod are encouraged to commit to a year of actively working towards forgiving past offenses and injuries that individuals and groups have suffered at the hands of the synod, its leaders, congregations, pastors, deacons and laity; and be it,

*RESOLVED*, that congregations, communities and individuals are encouraged to strive to seek positive ways to express their pain and hurt for the purposes of forgiving and healing, and will refrain from cultivating and harboring that pain that inhibits our life together in Christ; and be it,

*RESOLVED*, that congregations, communities and individuals are encouraged to commit to a year of relationship building with synodical staff, deans, conference colleagues and other fellow workers in the gospel of this synod by, whenever possible, attending retreats, prayer days, conference meetings and other events that have the potential for building stronger relationships within this synod, always mindful of our call to proclaim the gospel that unites us; and be it,

*RESOLVED*, that all members of this synod are encouraged to strive to follow the teachings found in Matthew 18 and to commit ourselves to speaking “the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15) when disputes and offenses occur.

—Submitted by The Rev. Mark E. Erson, The Rev. Robert Cederstrom, Vicar Rebecca Pollicino, Deacon John Prosen, Deacon Andrea Smernoff, and Deacon Meg Fielding

—Committee Recommendation: Reference and Counsel recommends adoption of this Resolution.

Pr. Mark Erson spoke of the centrality of reconciliation to the life of the church. He said the purpose of the resolution is so that understanding might be well-tested. He offered this observation from Archbishop Desmond Tutu: “There is no future without forgiveness.”

Several members raised questions about the intent and efficacy of the resolution.

Deacon Robert Rainis suggested that the concerns of the resolution might be better addressed by prayer than a synodical resolution.

Pr. Richard Hill said he did not understand what prompted the resolution. What is the purpose of asking the synod to work on forgiveness without naming the offense?

Pr. William Clark noted that there are some issues and divisions that run very deep. He spoke of his concern that there is some restitution and atonement that needs to take place beyond what is called for in the resolution.

No additional speakers rose to speak. The chair asked put the resolution to a vote.

**RESOLVED**, that all members of this synod are encouraged to commit to a year of actively working towards forgiving past offenses and injuries that individuals and groups have suffered at the hands of the synod, its leaders, congregations, pastors, deacons and laity; and be it,

**RESOLVED**, that congregations, communities and individuals are encouraged to strive to seek positive ways to express their pain and hurt for the purposes of forgiving and healing, and will refrain from cultivating and harboring that pain that inhibits our life together in Christ; and be it,

**RESOLVED**, that congregations, communities and individuals are encouraged to commit to a year of relationship building with synodical staff, deans, conference colleagues and other fellow workers in the gospel of this synod by, whenever possible, attending retreats, prayer days, conference meetings and other events that have the potential for building stronger relationships within this synod, always mindful of our call to proclaim the gospel that unites us; and be it,

**RESOLVED**, that all members of this synod are encouraged to strive to follow the teachings found in Matthew 18 and to commit ourselves to speaking “the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15) when disputes and offenses occur.

The next resolution considered was Item B.1

**Item B.1      A Resolution Regarding Board of Pensions and ELCA Participating Annuity and Bridge Fund**

*Whereas*, the ELCA Participating Annuity and Bridge Fund (“the Fund”) experienced significant losses as a result of the recession that began in 2008; and

*Whereas*, the board of trustees of the ELCA Board of Pensions, in consultation with Board of Pensions senior staff and advisors, acted in a number of ways to address losses in the Fund, including: closing the Fund to new contributions; reducing payments to annuitants in the Fund by 9% for 2010; advising annuitants of potential decreases in annuity payments in 2011 and 2012; reducing in 2010 by 3.5% the value of not yet annuitized accounts of participants in the bridge component of the Fund; and advising these participants of potential decreases in account values in 2011 and 2012; and

*Whereas*, the 2010 reductions and possible future reductions have the potential of working severe hardships on many with fixed financial responsibilities; and

*Whereas*, the ELCA Special Needs Retirement Fund was created to provide assistance for eligible plan participants, spouses, and surviving spouses, who have financial need; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly requests that the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America retain an external agency to consult with the Board of Pensions regarding the background of, reasons for, and implications of the decisions made with respect to the ELCA Participating Annuity and Bridge Fund, to explore possible alternative ways to restore Fund losses and increase payment levels for annuitants and account values for those with bridge component accounts not yet annuitized, and to report on the results of the external agency-consultation at the November 2010 meeting of the Church Council; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly requests the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to direct that steps be explored to mitigate the adverse effects of the Fund reductions and possible future reductions, including the expansion and promotion of the ELCA Special Needs Retirement Fund, and that the results of that exploration be reported to all participants in the ELCA Participating Annuity and Bridge Fund and/or the ELCA Special Needs Retirement Fund; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council for consideration and possible action.

—Submitted by the Committee on Reference and Counsel

—Committee Recommendation: Reference and Counsel recommends adoption of this Resolution.

Pr. Kershner gave some background for the committee's recommendation and how it arrived at the resolution put before the assembly as several resolutions were received that address concerns related to the Board of Pensions, but with differing approaches. The version put forward attempts to reconcile the differences among the resolutions submitted.

An amendment was offered by Pr. B. John Hagedorn

To Add at line 26

...exploration be reported to all congregations, agencies and institutions of the ELCA and .....

### **On the Hagedorn Amendment**

**Adopted**

*RESOLVED*, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly requests that the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America retain an external agency to consult with the Board of Pensions regarding the background of, reasons for, and implications of the decisions made with respect to the ELCA Participating Annuity and Bridge Fund, to explore possible alternative ways to restore Fund losses and increase payment levels for annuitants and account values for those with bridge component accounts not yet annuitized, and to report on the results of the external agency-consultation at the November 2010 meeting of the Church Council; and be it further

*RESOLVED*, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly requests the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to direct that steps be explored to mitigate the adverse effects of the Fund reductions and possible future reductions, including the expansion and promotion of the ELCA Special Needs Retirement Fund, and that the results of that exploration be reported to all congregations, agencies and institutions of the ELCA and to all participants in the ELCA Participating Annuity and Bridge Fund and/or the ELCA Special Needs Retirement Fund; and be it further

*RESOLVED*, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council for consideration and possible action.

Pr. Gerard Gaeta said it appeared to him that the notification from the ELCA is more drastic than that communicated through the resolution. He stated that the 9% reduction is for each year three years and permanent.

Pr. Lloyd Berg offered an amendment:

After line 27 to add

*RESOLVED*, that the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America be directed by the Metropolitan New York Synod in Assembly to insure:

That reconsideration of the drastic actions taken by the Board of Pensions be undertaken, with a view to alleviating the hardships imposed upon retirees, their spouses, surviving spouses, and their families.

Pr. Berg spoke to his amendment and his concern for integrity of the plan.

For technical reasons a simple change was made to the amendment by unanimous consent.

*RESOLVED*, that the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America be ~~directed~~ requested by the Metropolitan New York Synod in Assembly to insure:

That reconsideration of the drastic actions taken by the Board of Pensions be undertaken, with a view to alleviating the hardships imposed upon retirees, their spouses, surviving spouses, and their families.

Ms. Porter, a member of the Board of the Board of Pensions, affirmed that Board of Pensions is acting prudently.

**On the Berg Amendment**

**Adopted**

*RESOLVED*, that the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America be requested by the Metropolitan New York Synod in Assembly to insure that reconsideration of the drastic actions taken by the Board of Pensions be undertaken, with a view to alleviating the hardships imposed upon retirees, their spouses, surviving spouses, and their families, and be it further

A member of New Hyde Park asked if makers of the original resolutions were satisfied with resolution presented. Pr. Amandus Derr affirmed that they were.

Pr. William Baum moved the previous. The motion to close debate was approved.

**On Item B.1 (as amended)**

**Adopted**  
**SA2010.05.03**

***RESOLVED*, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly requests that the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to retain an external agency to consult with the Board of Pensions regarding the background of, reasons for, and implications of the decisions made with respect to the ELCA Participating Annuity and Bridge Fund, to explore possible alternative ways to restore Fund losses and increase payment levels for annuitants and account values for those with bridge component accounts not yet annuitized, and to report on the results of the external agency-consultation at the November 2010 meeting of the Church Council; and be it further**

***RESOLVED*, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly requests the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to direct that steps be explored to mitigate the adverse effects of the Fund reductions and possible future reductions, including the expansion and promotion of the ELCA Special Needs Retirement Fund, and that the results of that exploration be reported to all congregation, agencies and institutions of the ELCA and to all participants in the ELCA Participating Annuity and Bridge Fund and/or the ELCA Special Needs Retirement Fund; and be it further**

***RESOLVED*, that the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America be requested by the Metropolitan New York Synod in Assembly to insure that reconsideration of the drastic actions taken by the Board of Pensions be undertaken, with a view to alleviating the hardships imposed upon retirees, their spouses, surviving spouses, and their families, and be it further**

***RESOLVED*, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council for consideration and possible action.**

Pr. Block reminded the assembly of a prior action by the assembly to establish a Clergy Emergency Need Treasury; he encouraged congregations to participate in it.

Bishop Malpica Padilla, reflecting on the comment that the pension reductions were permanent, clarified that the Board of Pensions is working to restore the annuity fund to fully funded status.

Reference and Counsel reserved the balance of the report to their next appearance

As the assembly prepared for the First Common Ballot, Pr. Paul Egensteiner gave instructions for completing the first ballot.

Candidates for Vice President were each given five minutes to respond to the question, “*What is your vision for forming leaders, especially from the young adult and multicultural communities?*”

Mr. Hiigel addressed the assembly first, followed by Mr. Vogel and then Ms. Del Toro.

The Bishop thanked the candidates for Vice President and asked the members to cast their votes on the first common ballot.

**First Common Ballot**

**Officers**

**1. Vice President**

[Vote for One]  
 Maria DelToro  
 F. Eugene Hiigel  
 Hans Vogel

**2. Secretary [Vote for One]**

Robert Schoepflin  
 Edward Barnett  
 James Krauser

**Synod Council 2 Yr. Term**

**3. Clergy [Vote for One]**

Diane Wildow  
 Brenda Jack  
 Annemarie Noto

**Synod Council 4 Yr Term**

**4. Clergy [Vote for One]**

Khader El-Yateem  
 Craig Miller

**5. Clergy [Vote for One]**

Marylou Baumgartner  
 Kit Robison

**6. Clergy [Vote for One]**

Darryl Kozak  
 Paul Milholland

**7. Clergy [Vote for One]**

Perry Kirschbaum  
 Ron Klose

**8. Lay Female**

[Vote for One]  
 Cyriline Mathurin  
 Kennetha Pettus  
 Christine Connell  
 Renee Wicklund

**9. Lay Female**

[Vote for One]

Theresa Auletta

Barbara Hansen

**10. Lay Female**

[Vote for One]  
 Minerva Melendez  
 Hope Card

**11. Lay Male**

[Vote for One]  
 Charles Germain

**12. Lay Male**

[Vote for One]  
 John Malone

**13. Lay Male**

[Vote for One]  
 F. Eugene Hiigel

**15 Youth [Vote for One]**

Ryan Schank  
 Alyssa Trombitas  
 Kelsey Brown

**Consultation**

**Committee**

**16. Lay Female**

[Vote for One]  
 Marion Steadman

**18. Lay Male**

[Vote for One]  
 Brian Reardon

**19. Lay Male**

[Vote for One]  
 Earl Marsan

**Discipline Committee**

**20. Clergy [Vote for One]**  
 Diane Wildow

**21. Clergy [Vote for One]**

James Krauser

**22. Lay [Vote for One]**

Christine Connell

**23. Lay [Vote for One]**

Paul Lumpkin

**Churchwide Assembly**

**24. Multicultural**

[Vote for One]  
 Perucy Butiku  
 Khader El-Yateem  
 Romeo Dabee  
 Mary Chang

**25. Clergy Female**

[Vote for Two]

Brenda Jack  
 Ann Tiemeyer  
 Katrina Foster  
 Phyllis Haynes  
 Diane Wildow

**26. Clergy Male**

[Vote for Two]

William Baum  
 Jonathan Linman  
 Daniel Ward  
 Craig Miller  
 William Clark Jr  
 Robert Schoepflin  
 Paul Milholland

**27. Lay Female**

[Vote for Four]

Janet Siry  
 Jacquelyn Mize-Baker  
 Lynne Hansen  
 Ophelia Coleman  
 Christine Connell

Kathleen Schmidt

Minerva Melendez

Patricia Force

Kimberly Fey

Meg Fielding

**28. Lay Male**

[Vote for Four]

Earl Marsan  
 Brian Reardon  
 Homer Alexander  
 Paul Lumpkin  
 Marc Almendarez Stutzel  
 Dave Ehlers  
 Robert Rainis

**29. Young Adult**

[Vote for One]

Lauren Smithson  
 Jonathan Westerlund  
 Geronimo Desumala  
 Mark Crosswell  
 Nicolette Faison

\*There were no nominees for the scheduled Tickets 14 and 17. Those numbers are therefore skipped.

### **Ecumenical Greetings**

Bishop Jeremiah Park of the United Methodist Church – New York Conference addressed the assembly. He told the assembly his conference is made up of 475 congregations and over 210,000 members. He expressed his thanksgiving for the votes in 2008 and 2009 establishing full communion between our churches, and said that the possibilities for this new relationship are only limited by our imaginations.

Following Dr. Park, the Rev. Dr. Jon Norton, Regional Synod of New York Reformed Church in America, brought greetings on behalf of his church. His remarks spoke briefly to the words on the crest of the Reformed Church: *“In unity there is strength.”*

Bishop Catherine Roskam – Bishop Suffregan of the Episcopal Diocese of NY, addressed the assembly next, greeting everyone on behalf of the NY Diocese and Bishop Mark Sisk. She told the assembly that in her 15 years as suffregan bishop, she was pleased to see growth in our relationship as we moved through the proposed *Concordat to Called to Common Mission*.

President David Benke had been scheduled to address the assembly as well, but Bishop Rimbo reported Bishop Benke’s regrets, inviting the assembly’s prayer for Bp. Benke’s mother, who was gravely ill.

The session concluded with announcements and prayer by Chaplain Butiku.

The assembly recessed for dinner at 6:13 P.M.

The day began with the office of Morning Prayer held prior to the business session. Bishop Robert Alan Rimbo called the 19<sup>th</sup> Assembly to order at 8:33 A.M. for its third plenary session.

**Report of the Committee on Registration**

Pr. Rosalind Brathwaite gave the revised attendance report.

Clergy	168
Lay Voting Members	238
AiM	<u>10</u>
Total Voting members	<b>416</b>

Pr. Paul Egensteiner announced the results of the First Common Ballot.

**First Common Ballot Results**

<b>Officers</b>	<b>6. Clergy</b>	<b>12. Lay Male</b>	<b>21. Clergy</b>
<b>1. Vice President</b>	Paul Milholland 274	John Malone 320	James Krauser 333
Maria DelToro 219	Darryl Kozak 81	Total Votes 320	Total Votes 333
Hans Vogel 108	Total Votes 355	Needed to Elect 161	Needed to Elect 167
F. Eugene Hiigel 38	Needed to Elect 178	<b>13. Lay Male</b>	<b>22. Lay</b>
Total Votes 365	<b>7. Clergy</b>	F. Eugene Hiigel 329	Christine Connell 321
Needed to Elect 183	Perry Kirschbaum 237	Total Votes 329	Total Votes 321
<b>2. Secretary</b>	Ron Klose 91	Needed to Elect 165	Needed to Elect 161
James Krauser 141	Total Votes 328	<b>15 Youth</b>	<b>23. Lay</b>
Robert Schoepflin 129	Needed to Elect 164	Kelsey Brown 133	Paul Lumpkin 321
Edward Barnett 93	<b>8. Lay Female</b>	Alyssa Trombitas 124	Total Votes 321
Total Votes 363	Christine Connell 154	Ryan Schank 87	Needed to Elect 161
Needed to Elect 182	Renee Wicklund 130	Invalid 1	<b>Churchwide Assembly</b>
<b>Synod Council 2 Yr.</b>	Cyriline Mathurin 36	Total Votes 345	<b>24. Multicultural</b>
<b>3. Clergy</b>	Kennetha Pettus 29	Needed to Elect 173	Perucy Butiku 155
Brenda Jack 168	Invalid 2	<b>Consultation Comm.</b>	Romeo Dabee 80
Annemarie Noto 101	Total Votes 351	<b>16. Lay Female</b>	Mary Chang 67
Diane Wildow 85	Needed to Elect 175	Marion Steadman 329	Khader El-Yateem 50
Invalid 5	<b>9. Lay Female</b>	Total Votes 329	Invalid 3
Total Votes 359	Barbara Hansen 178	Needed to Elect 165	Total Votes 355
Needed to Elect 178	Theresa Auletta 135	<b>18. Lay Male</b>	Needed to Elect 177
<b>Synod Council 4 Yr.</b>	Total Votes 313	Brian Reardon 305	<b>25. Clergy Female</b>
<b>4. Clergy</b>	Needed to Elect 157	Total Votes 305	Ann Tiemeyer 184
Craig Miller 214	<b>10. Lay Female</b>	Needed to Elect 153	Katrina Foster 174
Khader El-Yateem 143	M. Melendez 225	<b>19. Lay Male</b>	Brenda Jack 159
Invalid 1	Hope Card 105	Earl Marsan 313	Diane Wildow 66
Total Votes 359	Invalid 1	Total Votes 313	Phyllis Haynes 59
Needed to Elect 179	Total Votes 331	Needed to Elect 157	Total Votes 368
<b>5. Clergy</b>	Needed to Elect 166	<b>Discipline Committee</b>	Needed to Elect 185
Kit Robison 177	<b>11. Lay Male</b>	<b>20. Clergy</b>	
M. Baumgartner 158	Charles Germain 311	Diane Wildow 314	
Total Votes 335	Total Votes 311	Total Votes 314	
Needed to Elect 168	Needed to Elect 156	Needed to Elect 158	

**26. Clergy Male**  
 Paul Milholland 154  
 Jonathan Linman 134  
 William Baum 115  
 Craig Miller 113  
 Robert Schoepflin 80  
 William Clark Jr 55  
 Daniel Ward 46  
 Invalid 3  
 Total Votes 368  
 Needed to Elect 183

**27. Lay Female**  
 M. Melendez 193  
 Christine Connell 178  
 K. Schmidt 178  
 Meg Fielding 157  
 Lynne Hansen 121  
 Janet Siry 109  
 Kimberly Fey 100  
 J. Mize-Baker 93  
 Ophelia Coleman 81  
 Patrica Force 42  
 Invalid 2  
 Total Votes 368  
 Needed to Elect 184

**28. Lay Male**  
 Paul Lumpkin 224  
 Earl Marsan 201  
 Brian Reardon 191  
 Dave Ehlers 176  
 Marc A.-Stutzel 159  
 Robert Rainis 141  
 Homer Alexander 134  
 Invalid 3  
 Total Votes 368  
 Needed to Elect 183

**29. Young Adult**  
 J. Westerlund 135  
 Nicolette Faison 106  
 G. Desumala 53  
 Lauren Smithson 28  
 Mark Crosswell 24  
 Invalid 5  
 Total Votes 351  
 Needed to Elect 174

Bishop Rimbo declared the following persons elected:

**First Common Ballot**

**Elected  
 SA2010.05.04**

**Vice President**

**Maria Del Toro**

**Synod Council [4 Yr.]**

**Craig Miller**

**Kit Robison**

**Paul Milholland**

**Perry Kirschbaum**

**Barbara Hansen**

**Minerva Melendez**

**Charles Germain**

**John Malone**

**F. Eugene Hiigel**

**Consultation Committee**

**Marion Steadman**

**Brian Reardon**

**Earl Marsan**

**Discipline Committee**

**Diane Wildow**

**James Krauser**

**Christine Connell**

**Paul Lumpkin**

**Churchwide Assembly**

**Minerva Melendez**

**Paul Lumpkin**

**Earl Marsan**

**Brian Reardon**

The Second Common Ballot was distributed. On that ballot, the following names appeared.

Members were instructed to vote for only one in each ticket.

**Officers**

**2. Secretary**

Robert Schoepflin  
 James Krauser

**Synod Council**

**3. Clergy [2 Yr.]**

Brenda Jack  
 Annmarie Noto

**8. Lay Female [4 Yr.]**

Christine Connell  
 Renee Wicklund

**15. SC Youth [2 Yr.]**

Alyssa Trombitas  
 Kelsey Brown

**Churchwide Assembly**

**24. Clergy Multicult.**

Perucy Butiku  
 Romeo Dabee

**251. Clergy Female**

Ann Tiemeyer  
 Diane Wildow

**252. Clergy Female**

Katrina Foster  
 Brenda Jack

**261. Clergy Male**

Craig Miller  
 William Baum

**262. Clergy Male**

Jonathan Linman  
 Paul Milholland

**271. Lay Female**

Meg Fielding  
 Kimberly Fey

**272. Lay Female**

Kathleen Schmidt  
 Janet Siry

**273. Lay Female**

Lynne Hansen  
 Christine Connell

**28. Lay Male [**

Dave Ehlers  
 Marc Almendarez-Stutzel

**29. Young Adult**

Jonathan Westerlund  
 Nicolette Faison



## **Transformational Ministry**

Pr. Bob Fritch and Pr. Kit Robison presented a video on the MNYS Transformational Ministry Initiative. They stressed that Transformational Ministry is not so much a program as a process—a process for getting unstuck.

Members were invited to have their congregations participate in the first of a three-year cycle of events planned for the fall of 2010.

Pr. LeRoy Ness, Pr. Dennis O'Rourke, and Mr. Carl Dowden of the Lutheran Parish of Northern Dutchess reported how three congregations in Dutchess County are working to transform three separate ministries into a cooperative covenant forming a three-point parish.

## **Report of the Bishop**

## **Part 2**

Bishop Rimbo gave his second address to the assembly.

I don't have much time to read or prepare, so I rely on such periodicals as *Context*, the newsletter edited by Micah and Martin Marty. In the most recent issue, a piece from *Image*, a magazine that addresses religion and the arts, quotes one of my favorite authors, Annie Dillard. This brief piece can serve as a summary of our diagnosis and prognosis thus far.

Annie Dillard, a wise woman, has an answer for the questions she poses about ours being a late time, a uniquely important one. It is, quite simply, no. 'These times of ours are ordinary times, a slice of life like any other... There were no formerly heroic times and there was no formerly pure generation. There is no one here but us chickens, and so it has always been: a people busy and powerful, knowledgeable, ambivalent, important, fearful, self-aware; a people who scheme, promote, deceive and conquer; who pray for their loved ones, and long to flee misery and skip death.

It is a weakening and discouraging idea, that rustic people knew God personally once upon a time – or even knew selflessness or courage or literature – but that it is too late for us. **In fact, it absolutely is available to everyone in every age** Check this for accuracy There never was a more holy age than ours, and never a less. There is no less holiness at this time...than there was the day the Red Sea parted. In any instant the sacred may wipe you with its finger. In any instant, the bush may flare, your feet may rise, or you may see a bunch of souls in a tree. In any instant you may available yourself of the power to love your enemies; to accept failure, slander, or the grief of loss; or to endure torture. Purity's time is always now.

The being said, with all that I have reported thus far,  
What are our vocations as the Metropolitan New York Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

Let me start this section by attempting a definition of that word "vocation," a term we frequently use but rarely define. "Vocation" is the thing or things you are called by God to do, with the gifts and talents God has given you, to which you commit your passion and excitement and energy for the sake of God's creation. It comes from the Latin word for "calling" – which implies a "call-er," God. And God calls all of us, gives us the gifts we need, and guides us by the Holy Spirit. Our Christian vocations include our jobs, our roles as family members, our roles as friends, as neighbors, as citizens, and so on.

And not only do we as individuals have vocations, the various expressions of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have vocations, too.

One of our vocations is to craft a sustainable future for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, our synod and our congregations. Last year in this Report – and I'm sure you all remember this! – I said we were entering into The Perfect Storm. I believe I was correct, though, frankly, the damage has not been as dramatic as I was anticipating.

Our synod experienced a cash flow crisis this past autumn; finances have gone through a re-set, as you heard in Kathy Schmidt's report – for your information, we have made significant changes in our operating budget, cutting approximately half a million dollars; individuals and congregations have voted to leave our church in part due to actions taken at our August, 2009, Churchwide Assembly; and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is, I believe, not down-sizing but right-sizing our national organization. These challenges and changes, while appearing to be losses, in fact hold the promise of new growth resulting from pruning. In the long run it could be for the good of all.

I am amazed that many of our congregational leaders – perhaps you – do not know the breadth and depth of what membership in our national church offers us. We need to flaunt the fact that Lutheran Services in America is the largest social ministry organization in the United States. We need to hold up before our members the amazing witness of Lutheran World Relief and especially our Lutheran Malaria Initiative. In our society, we should be pointing to the persistent witness of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. I think the fact that every synod in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has on staff a Director of Evangelical Mission is a sign of this partnership: churchwide resources are put to use right here on the territory of the synod; the model of accompaniment with our Global Mission partners, largely envisioned by Rafael Malpica Padilla, which is the envy of many mainline churches.

We need to find ways to have deep conversations in our synod about how to deploy our energy between the various expressions of this church; and by energy I mean much more than money. We need to give time and attention to deepening congregational ownership of our church body and the amazing cooperative work we do for the sake of God's mission.

We need to focus on our assets in this synod, and I pledge to you that we will continue to do so. When we give all our attention to what we don't have, our stomachs fill with acid and we end up discouraged and frustrated. Rather than acid, I want us to focus on assets; there we will gather energy and notice again our many God-given gifts.

- ♦ *Talk to a neighbor about your own gifts for ministry and how focusing on those assets has freed you from acids.*

## **HOUSEHOLDS**

I pray that as we move toward 2017 we will see the three expressions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America expand, all working together in an interdependent ministry for the sake of the world. For example, I think we need to recognize, empower and support households, what Luther identified as the first church. Households take many forms: friendship groups; grandparents and grandchildren sharing space and lives; partnered people in committed relationships. Faith is formed in those households in all their diverse shapes, forms, patterns and models, around kitchen tables and in the midst of daily life. I think we need to shift our Christian education and confirmation ministries from school models to relational models, places in which we can focus on faith practices, sharing lives of joy and service. We need to attract youth and young adults to the life of faith.

Deepening our work of inviting people into the ancient practices of the Christian faith will result in the strengthening of households. We will live our love for the neighbor as we remember children and their families, young adults who are overwhelmed with too much work, too much debt and too many pressures.

## **CONGREGATIONS**

These are the places where God forms followers of Christ through Word and Sacraments. By 2017, I hope our congregations will have had a conversation about how to make their life more than a supermarket of programs but assemblies in which God is reliably present and met by people. I think our smaller congregations have the potential of growing people who are deep in faith, hope and love, but they will need to see the gifts they have as God gathers them around the font and table and then sends them back into the world as light and leaven for this time and place. There is no right size for congregations, but for our synod to thrive we will have to develop small- and mid-size congregation strategies so that the hundred and fifty I spoke of earlier are equipped for vital witness. This is not easy, of course, but a persistent focus on deepening the communion, proclamation, faith formation and service of congregations will bear fruit.

## **SYNOD**

I often think that it would be better if synods were called dioceses, simply because people have a better idea of what that word means. But then I think that the word “synod” has value which we have not begun to explore. It means that we are “on the road together,” traveling with Jesus Christ. Together we are able to accomplish far more than any individual congregation can do. Our partnership in this great synod holds continuing and growing promise for all of us and I anticipate that by 2017 we will have grown in our love for one another, our trust in each other, and our communal witness for the sake of God’s mission.

## **INSTITUTIONS**

Another asset is our ministry in various institutions. I will only name a few: Wagner College, Philadelphia Seminary, specialized ministers serving in hospitals and homes, the variety of partners who comprise Lutheran Services New York Alliance – the list is amazing and diverse. We need to reclaim and retain these agencies and institutions, inviting them deeper into the network of our synod’s life so that we can receive their gifts and share ours with them. They are the Metropolitan New York Synod, too.

## **CHURCHWIDE**

I have already alluded to this but it bears repeating. I suspect that churchwide ministry will experience the steepest change in the next seven years. Unless we can find ways to bring attention and ownership to our shared work, that work will continue to lose support. We need to build awareness of the rich gifts which membership in a larger, national church bring to our work together. We need to tell the story of our partners in the ELCA and what they do on our behalf. We also need to celebrate companion synod relationships with Romania and Tanzania and in our ecumenical efforts, so lovingly demonstrated yesterday afternoon with our friends. These sisters and brothers live and share our faith, work for justice, love their neighbors who are often on the margins of society, and live out their vocations. I invite all of you to claim our shared identity as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

- ♦ *Again, share with one another, in triads this time, what it means that we are part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

People seem somewhat bewildered that we call ourselves Evangelical. To many people that term means “Pentecostal” or “conservative” or even “not-Roman Catholic.” But we need to make clear that you cannot be Lutheran without being evangelical. And this is what I mean by that important word: The center of who we are and what we are sent by God to do is the good news of Jesus Christ, the good news that in Christ we are a new creation, the good news that we are reconciled and sent in the power of the Holy Spirit to be ambassadors for Jesus Christ, bearers of and participants in God’s reconciling of the whole world.

We need to keep asking one another, “What gospel are we proclaiming and believing?” And we need the wisdom of one another if we are going to be vigilant in the face of the

many gospels that are competing to be central to our proclamation and witness. This is the good news we proclaim: You are saved by God's grace on account of Christ. You are forgiven. In Christ, God has reconciled the whole world to God's own self.

We are Lutheran, which means that we are a confessional church. We are united with 139 other church bodies through the Lutheran World Federation. We are bound together with them because we uphold the Augsburg Confession and, therefore, are in communion with one another and engaged together in God's mission of proclamation and service.

We are a Church that is evangelical, confessional and ecumenical. One cannot talk about our identity without talking about our ecclesiology. Our identity is in relationship to Christ and in Christ to one another. There are some Christians who would seem to claim that you can have Jesus all to yourself. But not us. We are in relationship with Jesus Christ and that relationship is present in his Body within which we live and serve. We cannot be righteous without being in communion with other justified sinners in which the Holy Spirit equips us. Christ does not save people apart from drawing all through the power of the cross. The church is the body of Christ, a creature of the gospel, and is not ours to dismember.

And, finally, our identity continues with "in America." We are evangelical, confessional, ecumenical and missional. God has placed us in a particular context – not only in the United States, but in the world. We are sent in and with the promise of the gospel to participate in doing God's work with our hands.

In closing, I invite you to pray aloud together with me a prayer of Julian of Norwich.

In you, Father all-mighty, we have our preservation and our bliss.  
In you, Christ, we have our restoring and our saving.

You are our mother, brother, and savior.

In you, our Lord the Holy Spirit, is marvelous and plenteous grace.

You are our clothing; for love you wrap us and embrace us.

You are our maker, our lover, our keeper.

Teach us to believe that by your grace all shall be well,

and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well. Amen.

*[Evangelical Lutheran Worship, page 87]*

Thank you.

*Bishop Robert Alan Rimbo*

*Metropolitan New York Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

### **Communication Report**

Ms. Sarah Gioe of the synod staff reported on the need to obtain a better email list for the efficient distribution of news and information throughout the synod. She encouraged members to sign up for the MNYS e-letter. She described ways for individuals to receive email even when they do not have a computer at home.

### **Partnership Grants**

Pr. Ospina of St. Luke's Woodhaven Hispanic Ministry reported on the activity of his ministry supported by a synodical partnership grant.

Pr. Andy Fetters of Grace Overflows expressed his thanks and told of the work supported by the partnership grant for both his ministry at Grace Overflows and the ministry of Grace Chinese Lutheran Church. He introduced a video about their multicultural, multiethnic and multigenerational congregation ministry.

### **Lutheran Youth Organization**

Mr. Jonathan Westerlund reported on the several events LYO plans and hosts throughout the year. He said that candidates were still being sought for their upcoming board elections. Mr. Ryan Schank described the retreats that are held at Koinonia. Ms. Hephzibah Peter reported on LYO's work and her experience at Pinecrest Lutheran Leadership School, which is held for a week each year in August.

It was also announced that our former LYO presented Nicolette Faison was elected to be the National LYO President and that our current LYO president was elected chair of the council of synodical LYO presidents.

### **Reference and Counsel**

Ms. Wicklund reported that an additional resolution had been received on Establishing Norms for Viability and that it would be presented in the afternoon session, time permitting. She then introduced the next resolution.

#### **Item D            A Resolution Supporting People with Autism**

*Whereas*, Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me" (Mark 9:37); and,

*Whereas*, the number of cases of autism continues to rise; currently, the CDC states that 1 in 100 children (1 in 70 boys) has been diagnosed with autism, which represents a 57 percent increase from 2002 to 2006, and a 600 percent increase in just the past 20 years; and

*Whereas*, there are an increasing number of stories of people with autism being asked to leave congregations, and in some cases restraining orders have been issued against individuals and their families; therefore, be it

*RESOLVED*, that this synod encourage all its congregations to welcome those living with autism and to offer support and care to individuals and families who are living with autism; and be it

*RESOLVED*, that this assembly direct the Metropolitan New York Synod Committee for Child Youth and Family Ministry to seek out resources and strategies for helping congregations welcome and minister to those individuals and families living with autism; and be it

*RESOLVED*, that this synod request the Lutheran Statewide Advocacy Committee to advocate government entities to provide and fund the educational and supportive services needed by those individuals and families who are living with autism, and to advocate government entities to provide funding for research that seeks to discover the causes of and effective treatment of autism.

—Submitted by the Congregation Council of Redeemer Lutheran Church and Nursery School, Queens Village, New York

—Committee Recommendation: Reference and Counsel recommends adoption of this Resolution.

A sponsor of the resolution spoke for it. He described the need to welcome the children of autism in our congregations. One in 25 persons have a family member or know someone with autism.

An amendment was offered to broaden the resolution to include intellectual and developmental disabilities; a secondary amendment expanded the amendment to use the more current terminology of autism spectrum disorders in place of autism.

### **On the amendments to Item D**

**Adopted**

*RESOLVED*, that this synod encourage all its congregations to welcome those living with autism spectrum disorders and intellectual and developmental disabilities and to offer support and care to individuals and families who are living with autism spectrum disorders and intellectual and developmental disabilities; and be it

*RESOLVED*, that this assembly direct the Metropolitan New York Synod Committee for Child Youth and Family Ministry to seek out resources and strategies for helping congregations welcome and minister to those individuals and families living with autism spectrum disorders and intellectual and developmental disabilities; and be it

*RESOLVED*, that this synod request the Lutheran Statewide Advocacy Committee to advocate government entities to provide and fund the educational and supportive services needed by those individuals and families who are living with autism spectrum disorders and intellectual and developmental disabilities, and to advocate government entities to provide funding for research that seeks to discover the causes of and effective treatment of autism.

### **On Item D (as amended)**

**Adopted  
SA2010.05.05**

***RESOLVED*, that this synod encourage all its congregations to welcome those living with autism spectrum disorders and intellectual and developmental disabilities and to offer support and care to individuals and families who are living with autism spectrum disorders and intellectual and developmental disabilities; and be it**

***RESOLVED*, that this assembly direct the Metropolitan New York Synod Committee for Child Youth and Family Ministry to seek out resources and strategies for helping congregations welcome and minister to those individuals and families living with autism spectrum disorders and intellectual and developmental disabilities; and be it**

***RESOLVED*, that this synod request the Lutheran Statewide Advocacy Committee to advocate government entities to provide and fund the educational and supportive services needed by those individuals and families who are living with autism spectrum disorders and intellectual and developmental disabilities, and to advocate government entities to provide funding for research that seeks to discover the causes of and effective treatment.**

### **Amendments to Governing Documents**

Pr. Krauser presented the changes to the governing documents recommended by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly and the Synod Council.

Two resolutions were offered. The first addressed constitution changes which, since recommended by the CWA, required only a majority vote. The second addressed bylaw amendments necessary for our documents to be consistent with the ELCA constitutional amendments.

The Churchwide Assembly has recommended the amendment of S7.22. and S.73. to make them consistent and to add voting rights for those on disability:

**S7.22.** The synod may establish processes that permit retired ordained ministers, retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses, and retired diaconal ministers on the roster of this synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. above. The synod may establish processes that permit ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and

diaconal ministers who are on leave from call, or those designated as disabled, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. above. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered leaders specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.

**S7.23.** ~~All retired ordained ministers, all ordained ministers on leave from call, all associates in ministry on leave from call or retired, all deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on leave from call or retired, and all diaconal ministers of this church on leave from call or retired, all of whose names appear on the rosters of this synod, shall have the privilege of voice but not vote at all meetings of the Synod Assembly. The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time by the Church Council shall also have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council shall from time to time designate.~~

Our current texts for S7.22 and S7.23 vary from the model.

Current MNYS text:

**S7.22.** All ordained ministers on leave from call and all retired ordained ministers, retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses, and retired diaconal ministers on the roster of this Synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members consistent with †S7.21.c. above.

**S7.23.** All associates in ministry on leave from call, all deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on leave from call, and all diaconal ministers of this church on leave from call, all of whose names appear on the rosters of this synod, shall have the privilege of voice but not vote at all meetings of the Synod Assembly. The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time by the Church Council shall also have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly shall from time to time designate.

***Recommended: that we adopt the text of Model for S7.22 and create bylaws to authorize voting privileges for retired and on leave from call rostered persons consistent with 7.22 and our long-standing practice.***

**S7.22.** The synod may establish processes that permit retired ordained ministers, retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses, and retired diaconal ministers on the roster of this synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. above. The synod may establish processes that permit ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers who are on leave from call, or those designated as disabled, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. above. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered leaders specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.

~~S7.22. All ordained ministers on leave from call and all retired ordained ministers, retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses, and retired diaconal ministers on the roster of this Synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members consistent with †S7.21.c. above.  
All retired ordained ministers, retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses, and retired diaconal ministers on the roster of this Synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members consistent with †S7.21.c. above.~~

S.7.22.01 All retired ordained ministers, retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses, and retired diaconal ministers on the roster of this Synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members consistent with †S7.21.c. above.

S.7.22.02 All ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers who are on leave from call, or those designated as disabled, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. above.

***Recommended: To delete our current text for S7.23 and insert the new text given in the Model.***

S7.23. ~~All associates in ministry on leave from call, all deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on leave from call, and all diaconal ministers of this church on leave from call, all of whose names appear on the rosters of this synod, shall have the privilege of voice but not vote at all meetings of the Synod Assembly. The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time by the Church Council shall also have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly shall from time to time designate.~~

***Recommended: To amend S7.26. to separate information about the Synod Assembly from more general information about synodically authorized worshiping communities:***

S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of mission settings formed with the intent of becoming ~~chartered~~ recognized congregations and authorized worshiping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21. ~~Authorized worshiping communities, acknowledged under criteria, policies, and procedures approved by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church.~~

***Recommended: To amend S8.42. to provide additional clarity:***

S8.42. The treasurer shall provide and be accountable for:

f. ~~Giving of corporate surety in the amount determined by the Synod Council, which shall be in the custody of the secretary, and the premium therefore shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a fulfillment of this requirement.~~

Obtaining a fidelity bond in the amount determined by the Synod Council for persons handling synod funds, which bond shall be in the custody of the secretary. The premium for the bond shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a fulfillment of this requirement.

***Recommended: To amend Bylaws S10.01.01 and S10.01.02 to be consistent with the amended †S10.01 and the newly added †S6.04.B09.***

S10.01.01. ~~The Synod Council shall consist of the four officers of the Synod, one youth who shall be not less than sixteen (16) years nor more than eighteen (18) ~~nineteen~~ (19) years of age at the time of assuming office election or appointment for service, one young adult who shall be between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) at the time of election or appointment for service, and twenty-two (22) other members. Of the twenty-two (22) other members eight (8) shall be clergy, six (6) shall be lay female, six (6) shall be lay male, these members shall be nominated and elected as provided for under S9.20.00; in addition, four (4) lay members shall be elected as at large candidates, Two (2) of the four at large members shall be persons of color and/or whose primary language is other than English.~~

S10.01.02. ~~The term of each young adult and "other member" of the Synod Council elected by the Synod Assembly shall be four years. The term of the youth member shall be two years.~~

***Recommended: To add S13.40. and S13.41. to separate information about the Synod Assembly from more general information about synodically authorized worshiping communities:***

**S13.40. Synodically Authorized Worshiping Communities**

**S13.41. Authorized worshiping communities, acknowledged under criteria, policies, and procedures approved by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church.**



Secretary Krauser moved, on behalf of the Synod Council, the adoption of ELCA Recommended Constitutional Amendments S7.22, S7.23, S7.26, S8.42, S13.40, S13.41 as printed.

Bishop Rimbo put the first set of amendments before the assembly. There was no discussion and the assembly proceeded to the vote.

**To adopt ELCA Recommended Constitutional Amendments**

**Adopted  
SA2010.05.06**

- S7.22.** The synod may establish processes that permit retired ordained ministers, retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses, and retired diaconal ministers on the roster of this synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. above. The synod may establish processes that permit ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers who are on leave from call, or those designated as disabled, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. above. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered leaders specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- S7.23.** The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time by the Church Council shall also have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly shall from time to time designate.
- S7.26.** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of mission settings formed with the intent of becoming recognized congregations and authorized worshiping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.
- S8.42.** The treasurer shall provide and be accountable for:  
f. Obtaining a fidelity bond in the amount determined by the Synod Council for persons handling synod funds, which bond shall be in the custody of the secretary. The premium for the bond shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a fulfillment of this requirement.
- S13.40.** Synodically Authorized Worshiping Communities  
**S13.41.** Authorized worshiping communities, acknowledged under criteria, policies, and procedures approved by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church.

A second resolution addressed amendments to the bylaws of the synod. These amendments required a two-thirds vote.

The first group of bylaw amendments are to necessary to accommodate or implement the ELCA recommended amendments to the constitution as outlined above. Additional amendments (to S12.01.08 and S12.05.01 – S12.05.06) represent a revision to the duties of conference deans in the synod. These amendments would replace the existing bylaws S12.05.01 – S.12.05.04.

Secretary Krauser made the motion

**To adopt Amendments to bylaws as recommended by the Synod Council**

**S7.22.01, S7.22.02; S10.01.01, S10.01.02;**

**S12.01.08; S12.05.01, S12.05.02, S12.05.03, S12.05.04, S12.05.05**

**S12.05.06**

Pr. Katrina Foster offered an amendment to the proposed S.12.05.03.

b. The Dean will normally serve a term of four years, renewable once. In specific cases, based on the need of the Conference, the Bishop may, with the consent of the conference, postpone a scheduled election for up to one year ~~suspend the term limit one time making it possible, in emergencies, for the Dean to serve three terms an additional year.~~ Conferences are encouraged to use Synod Guidelines for the election of Deans.

Pr. Foster and Pr. Richard Hill spoke in favor of the amendment.

**On the Foster Amendment**

**Adopted**

A division of the question was requested and approved to consider the amendments related to the ELCA changes and those related to the deans separately.

**To adopt Amendment to bylaws S7.22.01 S7.22.02; S10.01.01, S10.01.02**

**Adopted**

**SA2010.05.07**

**S.7.22.01** *All retired ordained ministers, retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses, and retired diaconal ministers on the roster of this Synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members consistent with †S7.21.c. above.*

**S.7.22.02** *All ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers who are on leave from call, or those designated as disabled, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. above.*

**S10.01.01.** *The Synod Council shall consist of the four officers of the Synod, one youth who shall be not less than sixteen (16) years nor more than eighteen (18) years of age at the time of election or appointment for service, one young adult who shall be between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) at the time of election or appointment for service, and twenty-two (22) other members. Of the twenty-two (22) other members eight (8) shall be clergy, six (6) shall be lay female, six (6) shall be lay male, these members shall be nominated and elected as provided for under S9.20.00; in addition, four (4) lay members shall be elected as at large candidates, Two (2) of the four at large members shall be persons of color and/or whose primary language is other than English.*

**S10.01.02.** *The term of each young adult and "other member" of the Synod Council elected by the Synod Assembly shall be four years. The term of the youth member shall be two years.*

To adopt Amendments to bylaws related to the Deans: S12.01.08; S12.05.01, S12.05.02, S12.05.03 (as amended), S12.05.04, S12.05.05 S12.05.06

Adopted  
SA2010.05.08

**S12.01.08.** *Each conference, in consultation with the bishop, shall elect a dean from among the pastors of the conference to serve a term of four years, a secretary who may be either clergy or lay, and such other officers as deemed appropriate, each to serve for a two-year term. A dean shall normally serve no more than eight consecutive years, and each other officer shall serve in his or her office no more than two consecutive terms. If a dean fails to perform the duties of the office of dean, the bishop may request the resignation of the dean, or may ask the Synod Council to remove the dean from office. A two-thirds majority vote by the Synod Council is necessary for removal of a dean.*

**S12.05.00** *Deans*

**S12.05.01** *Purpose of the Dean*

*The Conference Dean shall support the ministry within the Conference and serve as the principal liaison between the Conference and the Office of the Bishop.*

- a. The Dean shall represent the Office of the Bishop within the Conference in order to enhance ministry, service and communication among congregations and rostered leaders.*
- b. The Dean shall represent the Conference within the Conference of Deans.*
- c. The Dean shall be the Bishop's representative on the territory of the Conference.*

**S12.05.02** *Criteria for Selection*

*The Conference Dean shall be a pastor under a regular call from a congregation or the Synod and serving on the territory of the Conference, or a retired pastor living on the territory of the conference. A person selected to serve as Dean:*

- a. is Christ-centered;*
- b. supports the mission and inter-relatedness of the congregations, synod and church-wide expressions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;*
- c. is collegial and cooperative;*
- d. demonstrates leadership in the Conference;*
- e. communicates openly and honestly while respecting confidentiality, and holds sensitive information in strict confidence;*
- f. maintains healthy boundaries and demonstrates physical, emotional and spiritual well-being and financial responsibility;*
- g. participates in the life of the Synod.*

**S12.05.03** *Election:*

*The Bishop shall nominate normally two candidates for the office of Conference Dean, in consultation with the Conference.*

- a. The Dean shall be elected by the full Conference and recognized at the Synod Assembly. The Dean assumes the office immediately upon election, and may be installed at a Conference-wide event.*
- b. The Dean will normally serve a term of four years, renewable once. In specific cases, based on the need of the Conference, the Bishop may, with the consent of the conference, postpone a scheduled election for up to one year making it*

*possible, in emergencies, for the Dean to serve an additional year. Conferences are encouraged to use Synod Guidelines for the election of Deans.*

**S12.05.04**

**Duties:**

- a. *The Dean will work closely with the Bishop and the Synod Staff. The Synod will provide appropriate training for the specific duties outlined below:*
  - 1.. *Facilitating or appointing a facilitator for all meetings of the Conference and its rostered leaders, including but not limited to regular bible study, training events, and visioning/discerning God's mission in its territory;*
  2. *Facilitating or appointing a facilitator for ministerium gatherings held at least quarterly;*
  3. *Participating in regular meetings of the Conference of Deans;*
  4. *Offering pastoral care to other rostered leaders and congregations and informing the Bishop of such needs;*
  5. *Sharing information within the Conference about the larger church;*
  6. *Assisting other deans when they are unable to fulfill their tasks;*
  7. *Providing a perspective from the Conference to the Office of the Bishop on pending issues and actions in the life of the Synod;*
- b. *In support of the call process, and in consultation with appropriate Synod Staff the Dean may:*
  1. *recommend rostered leaders to synod leadership for congregations in the call process;*
  2. *conduct the exit interview with the rostered leader who is leaving;*
  3. *conduct the exit interview with the elected congregation council at the end of a ministry;*
  4. *provide orientation for the congregation council and call committee in time of transition;*
  5. *be appointed coverage pastor, or may facilitate the appointment of one;*
  6. *introduce the recommended interim;*
  7. *review the congregational self-study/profile for mission with call committee and congregation council, helping to discern the future, ongoing mission of the congregation;*
  8. *present mobility papers of recommended rostered leaders to the call committee;*
  9. *assist the congregation to identify supply pastors in cooperation with and at the approval of the Office of the Bishop; and*
  10. *preach and preside at worship early in the vacancy to represent the Office of the Bishop; for this service, the calling congregation will pay for the supply pastor leadership of the dean's congregation.*
- c. *Representing the Office of the Bishop by visiting each rostered leader in the Conference on an annual basis, and each congregation at least once during his/her term as Dean;*
- d. *Providing feedback to the Bishop's office regarding the missional health of the congregations in the conference; a neighboring Dean will provide a report on conference Dean's congregation;*
- e. *Representing the Office of the Bishop in welcoming new rostered leaders and normally presiding at their installation, and in other roles as requested by the Bishop;*

- f. **Being accountable for time and activity as Conference Dean to the Office of the Bishop, the Conference and the Dean's own congregation;**
- g. **Being in regular contact with the rostered leaders of the Conference, key lay leaders, and the Office of the Bishop; and**
- h. **Providing a written report from the Conference to the Synod Bishop, using supplied guidelines, for publication in the Synod Assembly Bulletin of Reports.**

**S12.05.05**

**Support**

- a. **Conference Deans will receive support from the Conference of Deans, and support and training from Synod Staff and the Bishop.**

**The Office of the Bishop and/or the Synod Staff shall:**

1. **Provide guidance for helping the Dean's congregation adjust to this ministry;**
2. **Visit a new Dean's congregation as a visible sign of support and appreciation to the congregation for sharing their pastor with the Conference.**
3. **Send a yearly thank you to the Dean's congregation for their support as their pastor fulfills his/her duties as Conference Dean.**
4. **Provide timely updates regarding any changes in the rostered leadership of conferences congregations;**
5. **Provide reporting forms and guidelines for all requested reports.**
6. **Provide guidelines for the resignation or termination of the dean's appointment.**

**S12.05.06**

**Compensation**

**The Synod will provide travel reimbursement at the current IRS rate for all meetings related to the office of Dean, and reimbursement for other appropriate expenses related to the Dean's work.**

Presentations were then given by *diakonia*, our Companion Synod Committees and the World Hunger committee describing their work and upcoming events.

**Ratification of Changes to the 2010 Budget and Adoption the 2011 Budget**

Mr. Buescher, our synod treasurer put the resolutions before the assembly on behalf of the Synod Council. There was no discussion on the first.

**METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD**  
**Revised 2010/Proposed 2011 Budget**  
**Synod Assembly**  
**May 14-15, 2010**

Function	2010 BUDGET Adopted(May 2009)	2010 BUDGET Revised(May 2010)	2011 BUDGET Proposed(May 2010)
<b>REVENUE</b>			
<b>10 CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CONGREGATIONS</b>			
Undesignated Mission Support	1,400,000	1,350,000	1,350,000
Designated ELCA Projects	70,000	50,000	50,000
Designated MNYS Projects	70,000	45,000	45,000
<b>Total Contributions from Congregations</b>	<b>1,540,000</b>	<b>1,445,000</b>	<b>1,445,000</b>
<b>11 GRANTS, BEQUESTS, &amp; OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS</b>			
ELCA - Division for Outreach (EOCM)	15,000	15,000	15,000
Undesignated Gifts and Bequests	220,000	220,000	220,000
Designated Gifts and Bequests - Individuals	140,000	140,000	140,000
Other Grants and Contributions	6,200	1,400	1,400
<b>Total Grants &amp; Other Contributions</b>	<b>381,200</b>	<b>376,400</b>	<b>376,400</b>
<b>12 TRANSFERS FROM OTHER FUNDS</b>			
Transfer from Liability Funds	52,500	0	0
Metro New York Synod Fund	157,000	0	0
Net Proceeds from Sales - Support of Operations	1,018,000	967,000	1,065,000
Partnership Grants - MRF	218,360	200,000	200,000
Urban Empowerment Fund	50,000	50,000	50,000
Tanzania Endowment Fund	40,000	40,000	40,000
Romanian Companion Synod	80,000	80,000	80,000
Other Designated or Temporarily Restricted Funds	73,648	40,000	40,000
<b>Total Transfers from Other Funds</b>	<b>1,689,508</b>	<b>1,377,000</b>	<b>1,475,000</b>
<b>14 OTHER INCOME</b>			
Investment Income	220,000	175,000	175,000
Mortgage and Loan Interest	5,000	6,250	5,750
Rental Income - Lutheran Schools Association	12,619	0	0
Rental Income - Lutheran Counseling Services/Wheat Ridge	2,215	4,475	4,475
Synod Assembly	70,000	70,000	70,000
St. Olaf Concert	20,000	20,000	0
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>329,834</b>	<b>275,725</b>	<b>255,225</b>
<b>16 MISSION PROJECTS</b>			
Budget estimate for amount to be transferred from the Mission Redevelopment Fund to cover expenses related to new missions or redevelopments within the synod			
<b>17 SYNODICAL ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>
<b>PROPERTIES</b>			
Budget estimate for amount to be transferred from the Mission Redevelopment Fund to cover expenses related to properties owned and congregations under synodical administration			
<b>TOTAL REVENUE AND FUND TRANSFERS</b>	<b>4,658,542</b>	<b>4,074,125</b>	<b>4,151,625</b>

**METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD**  
**Revised 2010/Proposed 2011 Budget**  
**Synod Assembly**  
**May 14-15, 2010**

Function	2010 BUDGET Adopted (May 2009)	2010 BUDGET Revised (May 2010)	2011 BUDGET Proposed (May 2010)
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>25 EVANGELICAL OUTREACH</b> ELCA Mission Support (2010-48.0%; 2011-48.5%); Designated ELCA/MNYS Projects, Partnership Grants, Stewardship and Mission Support Table, Mission Resources Table, Strategy Table	1,280,900	1,184,483	1,196,457
<b>35 GLOBAL AND MULTICULTURAL MISSION</b> Companion Synod programs, Ethnic ministries, ELCA Global Mission, and other programs	425,529	440,109	465,735
<b>45 CONGREGATIONS</b> Development and administration of a proactive ministry to congregations, administration of interim pastorates and mobility, coordination of leadership training events for congregational leaders	182,613	161,210	166,067
<b>55 FORMATION</b> Candidacy process, administration of official roster of ministers, coordination of child, youth and family ministries, education grants, Horizon internships	372,990	356,406	361,976
<b>65 MISSION PROJECTS</b> Budget estimate for expenses related to new missions or redevelopments within the synod	618,000	300,000	300,000
<b>70 BISHOP'S OFFICE</b> Pastoral care and oversight for congregations, pastors and deans, participates in ELCA Conference of Bishops and ELCA wider ministries	441,567	315,199	323,693
<b>75 SYNODICAL ADMINISTRATION PROPERTIES</b> Budget estimate for expenses related to properties owned and congregations under synodical administration	100,000	300,000	300,000
<b>80 SYNOD GOVERNANCE</b> Synod Assembly, Synod Council, synod committees	193,950	143,650	143,650
<b>90 COMMUNICATIONS, PR AND INTERPRETATION</b> Synod website, public relations, Mission Interpreters, Lutheran New Yorker and other publications	144,317	142,860	146,678
<b>91 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION</b> Rent, general office services (printing, postage, insurance, telephone, internet, professional services, etc.); work with congregations on compensation and budget issues; work with Assistant to the Bishop for Evangelical Outreach to provide financial guidance for congregations under synodical administration	898,676	730,208	747,369
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>4,658,542</b>	<b>4,074,125</b>	<b>4,151,625</b>
<b>EXCESS/(DEFICIT) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>% CHANGE FROM 2010 ADOPTED BUDGET/2010 REVISED BUDGET</b>	<b>-12.55%</b>	<b>1.90%</b>	

**To Ratify the Revised F. Y. 2010 Budget of \$4,074,125**

**Adopted**  
**SA2010.05.09**

A member of Epiphany, Bronx commented that the proposed budget does not direct enough resources to the closing of churches. It was suggested that a strategy be presented next year to direct resources into mission redevelopment. There was no further discussion. Bishop Rimbo asked the assembly to vote.

**To Adopt a Budget of \$4,151,625 for F.Y 2011**

**Adopted**  
**SA2010.05.10**

Announcements included the dates for the next assembly May 13-14, 2011 on Long Island. The third session closed with prayer at 12:15 P.M.

The fourth plenary session began at 2:30 p.m.  
Pr. Egensteiner gave the report of the Second Common Ballot.

<b>Officers</b>	Alyssa Trombitas	142	<b>261. Clergy Male</b>	Needed to Elect	149
<b>2. Secretary</b>	Total Votes	290	Craig Miller	186	
Robert Schoepflin	156	Needed to Elect	146	William Baum	116
James Krauser	151	<b>Churchwide Assembly</b>	Total Votes	302	<b>273. Lay Female</b>
Total Votes	307	<b>24. Clergy Multicult.</b>	Needed to Elect	152	Christine Connell
Needed to Elect	154	Perucy Butiku	217		Lynne Hansen
		Romeo Dabee	87	<b>262. Clergy Male</b>	Total Votes
<b>Synod Council</b>	Total Votes	304	Paul Milholland	185	296
<b>3. Clergy [2 Yr.]</b>	Needed to Elect	153	Jonathan Linman	120	Needed to Elect
Brenda Jack	186		Total Votes	305	149
Annemarie Noto	116	<b>251. Clergy Female</b>	Needed to Elect	153	<b>28. Lay Male</b>
Total Votes	302	Ann Tiemeyer	227		Dave Ehlers
Needed to Elect	152	Diane Wildow	78		Marc A.-Stutzel
		Total Votes	305	<b>271. Lay Female</b>	Total Votes
<b>8. Lay Female [4 Yr.]</b>	Needed to Elect	153	216	Meg Fielding	176
Christine Connell	186		292	Kimberly Fey	111
Renee Wicklund	114	<b>252. Clergy Female</b>	Needed to Elect	147	287
Total Votes	300	Katrina Foster	155		Needed to Elect
Needed to Elect	151	Brenda Jack	146	<b>272. Lay Female</b>	144
		Total Votes	301	Kathleen Schmidt	
<b>15. SC Youth</b>	Needed to Elect	151	216	Janet Siry	<b>29. Young Adult</b>
Kelsey Brown	148		296	Total Votes	J. Westerlund
				Needed to Elect	178
					Nicolette Faison
					Total Votes
					305
					Needed to Elect
					153

Bishop Rimbo declared the following persons elected:

**Second Common Ballot**

**Elected  
SA2010.05.11**

**Secretary Robert Schoepflin**

**Synod Council  
Brenda Jack  
Christine Connell  
Kelsey Brown**

**Churchwide Assembly  
Perucy Butiku Ann Tiemeyer  
Katrina Foster Craig Miller  
Paul Milholland Meg Fielding  
Kathleen Schmidt Christine Connell  
Dave Ehlers Jonathan Westerlund**

**Lutheran Ministry in Higher Education**

Pr. Nicole Schwalbe and Ms. Demaris Wollenburg gave a brief presentation on the work of Lutheran Ministry in Higher Education

The bishop announced that the time schedule for the remainder was tight and asked for a moment to confer with the Reference and Counsel chairs. Following the consultation he announced that the two remaining items in the printed report would be taken up as time



permits. An additional resolution submitted during the assembly will be forwarded to the synod council.

### **Anniversaries**

Pr. Gary Mills read the names of the pastors celebrating significant anniversaries. Those celebrating 25<sup>th</sup> anniversaries were invited to come forward for a certificate and gift presented by Bishop Rimbo. Those celebrating 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries were also invited forward for gifts. Pr. Charles Dietz, celebrating 65 years, was present at the assembly and was also recognized.

### **Ordination Anniversaries**

#### **Five Years**

The Rev. Romeo Dabee  
The Rev. Sarah Geddada  
The Rev. Napoleon Plaza

#### **Ten Years**

The Rev. Hector Carrasquillo  
The Rev. Garret Johnson  
The Rev. Bruce Kaifler  
The Rev. James O'Hanlon  
The Rev. Micah Stumme

#### **Fifteen Years**

The Rev. Phyllis Haynes  
The Rev. Hector Ribone  
The Rev. Brenda Smith  
The Rev. Anthony Stephens  
The Rev. Alex Walbrodt

#### **Twenty Years**

The Rev. Mary Lou Baumgartner  
The Rev. Joanne Bond  
The Rev. Joy Clarke  
The Rev. Fredi Eckhardt  
The Rev. Barbara Hosmer  
The Rev. Wolf Kaufmann  
The Rev. Leo Longan  
The Rev. Nancy Matthias  
The Rev. Fritz Wendt

#### **Twenty-five Years**

The Rev. Kristina Ahlman  
The Rev. L. Alan Bentz-Letts  
The Rev. Marsh Drege  
The Rev. Carol Fryer  
The Rev. Gregory Fryer  
The Rev. Jane Gaeta  
The Rev. Philip Kunder  
The Rev. Lyn Mehl  
The Rev. Charles Oberkehr  
The Rev. Jon Overvold  
The Rev. Michael Ross  
The Rev. Jerome Taylor

The Rev. Thomas S. Taylor  
The Rev. James Watrud

#### **Thirty Years**

The Rev. Francis Bonadonna  
The Rev. David Gerber  
The Rev. William Heisley  
The Rev. Barbara Lundblad  
The Rev. Frank Nelson  
The Rev. Robert Schoepflin  
The Rev. Robert Splittgerber  
The Rev. Toby Tobias  
The Rev. Kipp Zimmermann

#### **Thirty-five Years**

The Rev. Amandus Derr  
The Rev. Paul Johnsen  
The Rev. William Purdy  
The Rev. Charles Vogeley

#### **Forty Years**

The Rev. Paul Britton  
The Rev. John Jurik  
The Rev. Jon Lin  
The Rev. Thomas Peterson

#### **Forty-five Years**

The Rev. Ernest Helmke

#### **Fifty Years**

The Rev. Raymond Birkel  
The Rev. Eugene Brand  
The Rev. LeRoy Ness  
The Rev. James Sudbrock

#### **Fifty-five Years**

The Rev. Paul Brouse, Jr.  
The Rev. William Fensterer  
The Rev. Theodore Grant  
The Rev. Robert Hansly  
The Rev. Richard Pankow

#### **Sixty-five Years**

The Rev. Charles Deitz

## **AiMs/Diaconal Ministers**

### **Ten Years**

Ms. Christine Connell (DM)

### **Twenty-five Years**

Mr. Livingston Chrichlow

Mr. John Hinsch

Dcn. Florence Poeschke\*

Ms. Dorothy Scholz-Beyer

Ms. Margaret Schuffenhauer

Mr. Richard Stockdale

Dcn. Carol Straub

### **Forty Years**

Mr. Philip Eyrich

### **Fifty-five Years**

Ms. Hertha Eggers

\*Actually started 45 years ago

The anniversaries of congregations were recognized next.

## **Significant Congregational Anniversaries**

### **300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

St. Paul's, West Camp

### **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

St. John's in the Bronx

### **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Covenant, Ridgewood

St. Stephen's Hicksville

### **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Our Saviour, Croton-on-Hudson

After the recognition of anniversaries, pastors new to the synod in the past year were recognized:

Pr. Laurie Andersen (returning)

Pr. Mary Lou Baumgartner

Pr. Robert Cederstrom

Pr. Danielle Fey

Pr. Flora Hartford

Pr. William Heisley

Pr. Rhonda Hoehn (returning)

Pr. Jonathan Linman

Pr. Joseph Montavani

Pr. Delores McKay

Pr. Scott Paradise (returning)

Deacons approved for rostering in 2009-2010 were acknowledged.

Dcn. Roberta Detmers

Dcn. Jasmine Downer

Dcn. Anita Martin-Williams

Dcn. Margaret Mueller

Dcn. Lulu Paolini

Dcn. Nancy Schoener

Bishop Rimbo also acknowledged the service of the deans. He included those who have been serving and those recently elected.

Pr. Richard Mueller

Pr. Phyllis Haynes / Pr. Ernst Mossi

Pr. Marvin Henk

Pr. Paul Egensteiner/Pr. Norman White

Pr. Laurie Cline / Pr. Perry Kirschbaum

Pr. Jeffrey Lausten

Pr. Richard Hill / Pr. Robert Modr

Pr. Bill Munz

Pr. Marva Jenkins

Pr. Micah Stumme

Pr. Gary Schulz

Pr. Leo Longan

Pr. David Parsons

Pr. Kipp Zimmermann

Pr. David Rommereim

Pr. Barrie Lawless

Pr. Katrina Foster / Pr. Paul Block

Pr. Garry Squire

## Report of Reference and Counsel (concluded)

Ms. Wicklund introduced the next resolution in the report, Item E:

### **Item E            A Memorial to Encourage Full Implementation of Actions on Ministry Policies**

*Whereas*, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopted resolutions on ministry policies that included a commitment to “finding ways for people in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders of this church” [CAO9.05.26] and a process of “structured flexibility” that would eliminate the prohibition on rostered service by individuals in such relationships while not imposing such service on any expression of this church [CAO9.05 .27]; and

*Whereas*, in compliance with and in order to implement the actions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, the ELCA Church Council has amended the policy on reinstatement to the roster and will consider amendments to “Visions and Expectations,” “Definition and Guidelines for Discipline,” the “Candidacy Manual,” and other documents; and

*Whereas*, in our past ten assemblies, the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has consistently called on the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to find ways for people in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders of this church; therefore, be it

*RESOLVED*, that the 2010 Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly commends the actions of the Church Council taken on April 9-11, 2010 to amend “Visions and Expectations,” “Definition and Guidelines for Discipline,” the “Candidacy Manual,” and other documents; and be it

*RESOLVED*, that the 2010 Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly memorializes the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as follows:

1. to encourage the full implementation as soon as reasonably possible of the actions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly and the Church Council on April 9-11, 2010 with respect to ministry policies; and
2. to encourage appropriate units and committees of the churchwide organization, synods, and congregations to take additional steps, consistent with the actions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, to implement fully and as soon as reasonably possible “structured flexibility” in candidacy and call processes, and to integrate fully qualified candidates and pastors who are in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships into life of this church for the sake of its mission and ministry.

—Submitted by the *Manhattan Conference Pastors and the Metropolitan New York Synod Commission for Gay and Lesbian People*

—Committee Recommendation: Reference and Counsel recommends adoption of this Resolution.

Pr. Mark Erson of the synod’s Commission for Gay and Lesbian People noted that the 2009 Assembly took big but fragile step forward, but the work of implementation was not finished. He described the resolution as a call to stay vigilant so that the opening door, stays open.

Pr. Robert Splittgerber offered an amendment

To the second resolve; “call processes, by clarifying what shall satisfy the standard of accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships...”

Pr. Splittgerber said he was simply seeking to make the wants to make clearer.

### **On the Splittgerber amendment**

**Adopted**

2. to encourage appropriate units and committees of the churchwide organization, synods, and congregations to take additional steps, consistent with the actions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, to implement fully and as soon as reasonably possible “structured flexibility” in candidacy and call processes, by clarifying what shall satisfy the standard of

accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships, and to integrate fully qualified candidates and pastors who are in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships into life of this church for the sake of its mission and ministry.

Pr. Barrie Lawless said that the emotions in response to the 2009 decisions ranged from despair to jubilation and that we need to acknowledge it. He observed that some are hoping to rescind actions of 2009. This left as an open wound will not be helpful.

**On Item E (as amended)**

**Adopted  
SA2010.05.12**

**RESOLVED, that the 2010 Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly commends the actions of the Church Council taken on April 9-11, 2010 to amend “Visions and Expectations,” “Definition and Guidelines for Discipline,” the “Candidacy Manual,” and other documents; and be it**

**RESOLVED, that the 2010 Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly memorializes the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as follows:**

- 1. to encourage the full implementation as soon as reasonably possible of the actions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly and the Church Council on April 9-11, 2010 with respect to ministry policies; and**
- 2. to encourage appropriate units and committees of the churchwide organization, synods, and congregations to take additional steps, consistent with the actions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, to implement fully and as soon as reasonably possible “structured flexibility” in candidacy and call processes, and to integrate fully qualified candidates and pastors who are in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships into life of this church for the sake of its mission and ministry.**

The next resolution was presented.

**Item F            A Memorial to Encourage Full Implementation of the Social Statement “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust”<sup>4</sup>**

*Whereas*, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopted the social statement “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust; and

*Whereas*, the Churchwide Assembly also adopted implementing resolutions for this social statement [CA09.04.17]; and

*Whereas*, passage of the social statement, and its implementing resolutions, as well as passage of the resolutions relating to the ministry policies recommendation, have generated substantial disagreement, which has diverted focus from many of the important policy initiatives addressed in the social statement’s implementing resolutions; and

*Whereas*, members of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are a living witness to the love, mercy and peace of God that knows no divisions “for in Christ Jesus [we] are all children of God through faith. As many of [us] as were baptized into Christ have clothed [ourselves] with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of [us] are one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:26-28); therefore, be it

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<sup>4</sup> This Resolution is accompanied by an Addendum.

*RESOLVED*, that the 2010 Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly memorialize the 2011 Churchwide Assembly to encourage the full implementation of the social statement “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” and its implementing resolutions and to have the Office of the Presiding Bishop bring a report to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly on the status of their implementation.

—*Submitted by the Metropolitan New York Synod Commission for Gay and Lesbian People and the Manhattan Conference Pastors*

—*Committee Recommendation*: Reference and Counsel recommends adoption of this Resolution

No members rose to speak to the resolution. The chair put it to the assembly for a vote.

## **On Item F**

**Adopted  
SA2010.05.13**

***RESOLVED*, that the 2010 Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly memorialize the 2011 Churchwide Assembly to encourage the full implementation of the social statement “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” and its implementing resolutions and to have the Office of the Presiding Bishop bring a report to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly on the status of their implementation.**

That concluded the business of the committee on Reference and Counsel. The resolution on Establishing Norms for Viability submitted after the deadline would be referred to the Synod Council for consideration.

Bishop Rimbo offered thanks to the various assembly committees: the Planning Committee, Reference and Counsel, Nominations and Elections Committees. He also thanked the volunteers from Pleasantville who stuffed packets.

The parliamentarian, the Rev. Diana Austin, gave some parting thoughts and thanks to the assembly for their respectful participation.

Before calling for the final report on registration, Bishop Rimbo expressed thanks and appreciation to Vice President Hans Vogel, and Secretary James Krauser for their service, and to all whose terms were completed with this assembly.

## **Final Report of the Committee on Registration**

The final registration report was given by Sec. Krauser for Pastor Brathwaite.

Clergy	168
Lay Voting Members	240
AiM	<u>10</u>
Total Voting members	<b><u>418</u></b>
Visitors	<u>48</u>
Total Attendance	<b>466</b>

The assembly concluded with the Order for the Closing of the Assembly with the Installation of Synod Council and the singing of “*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*” at 3:35 P.M.